
THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

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No. 4

Book Contagion

Arnold K. Borden

Censorship—A Library Problem

William F. Yust

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Library Book Funds

Charles M. Baker

Observations on the Reading of
University Students

Samuel W. McAllister

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Forthcoming Issues of THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

* The March first issue will be the annual Equipment number with articles on "Rebacking Cloth and Leather Bound Books" by Dr. G. E. Wire; "Photographing Manuscripts and Rare Books by Moving Pictures" by William E. Henry; "An Opinion on Furniture for Libraries" by Mr. Erskine of the Erskine-Danforth Corporation; "The Use of the Dexigraph in Making an Official Catalog" by Anna M. Monrad; and other short articles on library equipment.

* An important article scheduled for March fifteen is on "A Hazard to Research," the danger to research through the increasing cost of scientific periodicals, by Charles H. Brown of Iowa State College.

* The department for Small Libraries begins with this number and we have several interesting plans ahead for this page. Don't forget to send in bibliographies and reading lists to be included in the Checklist of Current Bibliography, beginning in this issue. The April first issue will be devoted to Small Libraries, but we will give you details of that later.

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Some Observations on the Reading of University Students

By SAMUEL W. McALLISTER

Associate Librarian, University of Michigan Library, Ann Arbor

“OF ALL THE FIELDS of intellectual experience the one whose boundaries are well-nigh unlimited is that world of vicarious experience through books. The student who has surveyed the world from its mountain tops, who has beheld its continents, its seas, its rivers, who is acquainted with its men and women, who multiplies his knowledge by the generations and the ages, who is at home and travels well therein, through space and time—that is an educated man. It therefore lies at the heart of the college purpose that we persuade and accustom our students to enter and possess the world of books, not as transient visitors, but as lifelong and loyal citizens.” The foregoing is the gist of a statement made by the president of a prominent mid-western college, and it ought to be hugged to the heart of every college librarian. I wish he might have gone further and given me his opinion as to whether college students really do read. Not that his statement would have been conclusive, for I could quote most emphatic judgments on both sides of the question from equally responsible college administrators. While one worthy executive in the East bewails the intellectual apathy of the undergraduate, another great library system in a metropolitan area closes its doors to the questing student, and a wail comes from the West that seekers after the truth in

books have no sense of the property rights of the institution—so great is the urge to read. There are many librarians who believe that the modern student reads nothing but that which is required, and maintain this view in the face of the modern educational doctrine that learning is best achieved through the wide reading of many books rather than the intensive concentration on a few texts. Some go so far as to aver that the old-fashioned college with its small faculty, its rigid curriculum, its hard and fast class lines, fostered a greater love for reading than the institution of learning of the present because class-work was more easily disposed of and consequently there was more leisure. Required reading is doomed to be stigmatized and the current method of assignment, which gives a choice of many books, only multiplies the aggravation. Other college librarians are as certain that not only is there a love of reading among college students, but that by almost superhuman exercise of ingenuity a great amount of voluntary reading is accomplished by them in spite of the methods of instruction which substitute time-consuming laboratory periods and field work in place of reading, and despite the multiplicity of extra curricular activities and social distractions so numerous as to be inconceivable to the student of a generation ago.

All of the difference of opinion is undoubtedly sincere, but is based upon personal observation and so cannot be conclusive. It can

Address before the University and Reference Librarians at the mid-winter conference, December 29, 1931.

perhaps be of some value in that it may stimulate the individual librarian to evaluate the results of his own efforts properly in view of the conditions with which he is faced. My own observations are worth much more to me than they can possibly be to anyone else, and my temerity in offering them in this seat of the scientific method may be blamed on the Chairman, who suggested the topic. However, since I have been on both sides of the fence at different times in my library career, I am emboldened to offer them for what they are worth.

While librarian of a teachers college which has excellent modern equipment and a rather generous appropriation for books, with a faculty having a fine appreciation of the part that access to a good book collection can play in the educational progress of a student, all efforts at creating interest in reading as a use of leisure seemed to fail. I had been warned by colleagues not to be disappointed if my efforts were vain, and was constantly on the alert to deduce the reason. My conviction is that in that particular school there is no leisure. The exactions of the schedule are more than ordinarily pressing, due to laboratory work, practice teaching, compulsory physical training periods, etc. The student body was known to be over-organized—a fault which has since been remedied—and many students belonged to so many clubs it was impossible to arrange meeting nights without conflict. Because the resources of the little town for entertainment are so meagre, it is felt to be necessary to provide frequent social entertainment which can be participated in by large groups. The institution has a reputation for being inexpensive, and consequently large numbers of needy students are attracted who must seek employment to help pay their expenses. All these factors militate against the achievement of leisure and seriously cramp the style of the missionary who would foster the reading habit, but the most pernicious influence against accomplishment of this worthy aim is the proclivity of the student body to desert the campus week-ends in order to spend that time at their homes, usually located at no great distance. I don't mean to imply that the week-end is the accepted time for leisure reading, but it follows that if two working days are taken out of the week, class assignments will fill practically all the time that's left. Attractive books and pleasant surroundings are ineffective in a situation of this kind and, while the librarian's discouragement might be abysmal in facing these facts, there is some solace in getting a grip on the extenuating circumstances.

My sojourn in the University of Michigan Library has changed my views and I now find myself in that happier category which likes to believe that the college student is a reader being insofar as his opportunities permit. University librarians are wont to decry the importance of circulation statistics as an indication of the use of the library, whose function is chiefly that of furnishing materials for reference and research, the measure of which is impossible to obtain, but figures can be significant up to a certain point. Certainly if those of the University of Michigan Library for 1930-31 had not registered a startling increase in the use of books my interest in the problem of students' reading might not so soon have recovered from the doldrums. In spite of a falling off of five hundred in the student enrollment for that period, there was an increase in the recorded use of books of about 90,000 volumes over the figure of the previous year. Since the normal circulation increase had been running around 5,000 per year, a closer scrutiny of the figures seemed called for. The fact that the bulk of this increase was in the main building which alone provides facilities for recreational reading assumed proportions of significance.

This provision is in no sense elaborate but consists of two display cases in the main corridor of the library on the reading room floor, opposite the charging desk. One case is kept filled with a selection from the stacks consisting mostly of fiction no longer new, with some books of poetry and drama. The other contains such of our current non-fiction accessions as are thought to be of interest to students and faculty. The whole represents but a few hundred volumes and really amounts to but a slight gesture in the direction of an invitation to read. However, this collection became the basis for an experiment which convinced me that there is some voluntary reading done among our students.

A check was made of our circulation during eight days of November of this year when conditions are considered normal. Football season, during which time things academic can't be expected to interest the undergraduate, was over and the prospect of mid-semester examinations had not begun to act as a spur to preparation. The figures kept for that period indicated that 16 per cent of all the books asked for were for reading which was not required, a very gratifying result; and since of this 16 per cent more than four-fifths of the books drawn were from the display cases, their importance as agents in spreading the gospel of reading is patent. Fiction, poetry, and drama accounted for 37½ per

cent of this total voluntary reading, and 45½ per cent was non-fiction.

A comparison of the subject matter of these latter books with those topics listed as "preferred by all men college students" in Waples and Tyler, *What People Want to Read About* disclosed very little similarity. Biography seems to be kept very busy even including such as falls into Mr. Waples' category of "Royalty and Social Leaders" represented as "avoided by all men college students." For example, the book card of Carlton's *Pauline, Favorite Sister of Napoleon* reveals the name of one more masculine reader than feminine over a period of five months. Perhaps this is the exception that proves the rule. *The Poor Man's Court of Justice*, by Cecil Chapman, hardly fits any of the topics listed for preference by college men or women, yet it is practically worn out after less than a year of use. *Your Job and Your Pay* by Katherine Pollak and Tom Tippet, which can be made to fit into two categories in the list of topics "preferred by non-college men" rather than by readers of such a library as that at the University of Michigan, circulated a dozen times in seven months. Adventure, represented by accounts of explorers and travellers, and foreign affairs chiefly limited to Russia and Germany, together with works dealing with the American scene accounted for most subjects showing lively circulation and, since general interest is the basis on which these books are assembled, I am inclined to think that selection of books plays little part in encouraging college students to read, and by the same token that there are few students with well-defined interests along the lines of which they want to read.

I believe the average student to be conservative in his taste, at least to the extent of wanting to read what other people are reading. Like his elders the college man may be somewhat prone to want to talk about books rather than to read them, which discourages his pioneering spirit into fields of literature which might possibly interest him more. This opin-

ion would seem to gain support from the fact that the books selected for review by the college *Daily* are of very general appeal, being usually well-advertised titles that are current choices of the various book clubs.

We have no way of knowing how representative a group of the whole student body our readers are. There are indications that most students who read voluntarily are upper classmen and graduate students, since the increased use of our collections has come during the time when the number of lower classmen has been on the decrease and the graduate school enrollment has grown. It is doubtful, too, that we reach the sophisticates who are undoubtedly among the best patrons of the local bookstores, not finding our wares sufficiently startling, for there are limits beyond which a university library cannot go in the expenditure of its book-fund, even though it seems hardly necessary to censor the reading of grown men and women. At the other extreme, the student whose taste runs to what has been called "palpitating wood-pulp" probably uses the local rental libraries, but I believe we do attract the rank and file of the student body who will read what we put before them in such scant time as can be snatched from innumerable tasks and activities, and who are willing to trust us not to put in their way that which will utterly waste the precious moments, even though it be but a best-seller with which to invite his soul.

The small percentage of the voluntary reading which came from the stacks, or 17 per cent, indicates probably that the student has relatively little interest in the bulk of the book stock except for reference purposes, and reveals undoubted prominence of the part played by open shelf collections in furthering reading among the students. These collections should not be so large as to be formidable, but should be easily accessible, should contain as attractive books as may be had on all subjects of general interest, and every encouragement for their circulation outside the building should be extended.

Do not shun life, therefore, nor be afraid to adventure and experiment . . . For if you trust life, instead of fearing it, you will find that life will itself sustain you . . . Self-mastery and the understanding of life are necessary for spiritual enlightenment, and these can be gained best by living.—KRISHNAMURTI.

Apportioning of College and University Library Book Funds

By CHARLES M. BAKER

Director of Libraries, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

THOSE WHO HAD the good fortune to be raised in a large family will recall the difficulties encountered in the cutting and serving of a tempting cake. Criticisms, invidious comparisons, and even recriminations were usually voiced by certain sides of the table and some members—not always the smallest—had to be restrained from grabbing. Sighing "That's all left behind me long ago and far away," turn now to the matter in hand or perhaps out of hand, the apportioning of funds in college and university libraries. The college has appropriated for the coming year a sum of money for books and periodicals. How shall it be divided so that every department will feel it has had its just share?

A few institutions face the problem bravely and make no direct apportionment. This is the practice of the University of Nebraska and Iowa State College. Departments are allowed to order "up to their share" to quote one librarian, who is thus made a man of power and might on his campus. The theory is that with no fixed amounts the fund will be elastic and departments with the greatest needs, as judged by the librarian, will get most. Toward the end of the year, too, there will be no wasteful rush by departments to use up a threatened balance. This would seem to be a plan fit for Utopia University, yet, to be fair, some administrators like it.

But what constitutes a department's reasonable "share"? This plan makes it necessary for the librarian to set up in his own mind and probably on paper a definite, arbitrary apportionment of funds or maximums for each department. It will also be necessary for his information that the Order Department keep an accurate account of the departmental purchases. Here then is no saving in labor or detail work.

Moreover, the librarian is made the arbiter to decide whether a department may or may not purchase. He is placed in the position of granting personal favors or rebuffs to faculty members. Nor is this an imaginary situation. Some college librarians there are who could tell of certain aggressive or enthusiastic professors who would easily spend for themselves or departments 50 to 75 per cent of the entire

book fund. The librarian, then, under this plan must be the brakeman, the brake shoe, and must absorb the frictional heat. In the present lean years this plan will be especially difficult to administer.

At least one institution, the University of Oklahoma, escapes the problem of dividing its fund by having none. Instead, each department turns over to the Library from its own maintenance appropriation whatever amount it decides to spend on books and periodicals. All responsibility rests, then, on the department. One danger in this arrangement is that the Librarian might tend to become, in the eyes of some, simply a purchasing agent. Another objection, too, is that some department heads, fortunately growing scarcer with the years, can hardly be induced to spend funds when they are allotted by the Library; if the money were to come from departmental coffers there would be even less tendency to purchase. Eventually such a department would find itself frantically striving to catch up in book acquisition after years of neglect.

Of the forty-eight libraries reporting to the Survey of Land-Grant Colleges¹, thirty-five stated they made a formal division of their Book Fund and in a majority of institutions a Library Committee distributed it.

Theoretically, at least, the small library committee of five including the Librarian would seem to be the best. For sufficient or insufficient reasons, everyone has his prejudices against various departments and subjects, but in a committee representing the various fields of knowledge most individual bias will be overcome and at the same time refusals of increases cannot be construed in too personal a manner. In certain libraries only a portion of the Book Fund is distributed by such a committee, the remainder being given the Librarian for general purchases at his discretion.

Twenty-two institutions in the Survey of Land-Grant Colleges reported they allotted 50 per cent or more of their funds. The University of Wisconsin allots less than half, the University of California one-third².

¹Survey of Land-Grant Colleges and Universities. U. S. Office of Education. Bulletin 1930. No. 9. p. 652.

²Ibid.

Some institutions, refusing to talk in dollars and cents, distribute units to each department. Ten units to one, twenty-five to another. Each year the gross book fund is divided by the total number of units to determine the monetary value of the unit for that year. With a book fund that fluctuated a good deal from year to year this system might obviate a great deal of friction as no department would have the number of its units cut down in lean years, though the money value for the unit might shrink 50 per cent.

Granted that the Book Fund is to be divided among departments what shall be the basis of apportionment? The satisfying answer no man knoweth to date and it is doubtful if any statistico-mathematician can ever evolve a formula ugly enough to meet all the varying conditions of college and university libraries. True, Professor Randall has recently published some worth while findings on one angle of the problem.² His study showed the relative amounts twenty-two college departments should have for the purchase of current books. Unfortunately this investigation, for stated reasons, left the modern language departments out of its consideration, so its conclusions must be revised in order to provide funds for the linguists. Even if this study disposes of the current book problem there still remains the question of how much money should be allowed each department for its periodicals and continuations, for its standard books, sets, and for the purchase of back files.

For the guidance of perturbed committees and librarians there follow certain factors that should be considered in any distribution of library funds:

² Randall, William M., The college library book budget. *Library Quarterly*. v. 1. No. 4. pp. 421-435.

1. Number of students enrolled in a department.
2. Number of professors in a department.
3. Number of graduate students.
4. Number of courses offered.
5. Nature of courses whether laboratory or requiring reading.
6. Number of duplicate copies needed.
7. Cost of books. (Science more costly than the Humanities.)
8. Cost of Periodicals. (Of great importance in universities where some foreign scientific journals cost over \$100 a year.)
9. Use made of one department's books by the other departments.
10. Fields in Library neglected in past.
11. Need of filling back files.
12. Uses to which a department's fund has been put over a three year period.
13. If binding is charged to a department, varying binding loads must be considered.
14. Vitality or aggressiveness of a department.

It has sometimes been recommended that funds be distributed by larger groups—fields of knowledge—such as natural science, applied science, English, foreign languages, etc. If the present departmental organization of colleges were broken down this method might be applied. Until that reorganization, however, the suggested plan would necessitate all the present bookkeeping by the Library to make certain that each department received a fair share of the money. With such reorganization achieved the Librarian's problem, however, will not be lessened for instead of academic dukedoms to placate there will be principalities.

Probably no system of book fund apportionment can give entire satisfaction to all the participants. If the Librarian and his committee can complete their annual task with clear consciences and a few speaking acquaintances, that perhaps is all flesh and soul should dare desire.

MOSAICS

My days are like mosaics, cut apart
 One from another, with a line of sleep.
 And some are glad and precious to the heart
 And some are desolate and make me weep.
 Some are as placid as an autumn dawn,
 And some are wrapt in pagan witchery,
 And some must have a crutch to lean upon,
 And some leap high in vivid ecstasy!

RUTH DARROW (age 13.)

Book Contagion

By ARNOLD K. BORDEN

Dartmouth College Library, Hanover, New Hampshire

AT THE COMMENCEMENT exercises of a large university a year or so ago the recipient of an honorary degree was said to have a "genius for making the love of literature contagious." Such a characterization has particular fitness in the case of the librarian whose special function in society is to stimulate the desire for books.

There is no one or certain way to make the love of books a contagious thing. The college librarian who is able to equip his library with a recreational reading room that makes reading synonymous with pleasure has found one solution. The cataloger who aims at a maximum of analysis, the reference assistant who facilitates the approach to fact, the bibliographer who selects and discriminates—each in his own way is an invaluable stimulus to the reading of books. And the wise father who recently told in the writer's presence how he made his son read by telling him half of an exciting story and then letting the boy find out the rest for himself had an entirely different and yet altogether satisfactory technique in book contagion.

Yet there is a method more fundamental and universally compelling which all who deal with books should aspire to adopt. We are all privileged from time to time to come in contact with individuals who reek with the knowledge of books. Their conversation is a sesame to worlds beyond our own and we hasten away from their presence in eagerness to our reading and to satisfy new and fruitful curiosities. We may be ashamed or put on our mettle in the face of treasures long neglected. Or we may be grimly determined to take for ourselves a larger share of the wisdom that lies buried in books. It is not within the power of us all to breed new enthusiasms with a like degree of success, but it is quite possible for us to make an approximation. The person who arouses in us this divine discontent is in possession of no secret formula, but derives his magic from wide, copious, memorable reading. A special grace and dynamic personality may spell the difference between him and us, but in the matter of reading he merely sets the pace.

To become pace-setters most of us have much to live down, much preliminary clearing away to do. Most of us consume a great deal of our time reading newspapers and

magazines, and there is no denying that such reading is urgent for an understanding of our contemporary civilization. Yet the ideas that are spread over the pages of dailies and periodicals are too often thin in substance and of fleeting significance. It remains for a book to develop an idea soundly, impressively, and weave it permanently into the fabric of our minds.

At this point there are plenty of pitfalls for one who would communicate the love of books to others. What with the lack of time and fatigue from a whiz-bang existence, the belief is general that there are various short ways of reading books. Skim the preface, the chapter heads, the beginning and the conclusions and let it go at that. In this way the contents of many books may be covered superficially. This method of book reading has its place and advantage. To some extent it is altogether necessary in an age of too much writing. It helps one's bibliographical equipment. But no one was ever able as a result of such reading to make others book-conscious. There must be intimacy, insight, feeling for the author's thought and meaning in all their implications and delicacies. It is by thoroughness and reflective reading that one is able to make the love of books communicable.

A dearth of leisure, a plethora of books, the necessity of reading profoundly—there is obviously inconsistency and contradiction here. The art of book contagion will be lost if no escape is found from this dilemma. Need for a deliberate plan, a conscious program, at once presents itself. Now nothing is less intriguing than the introduction of system into one's reading habits. In fact the person who ranges widely and continuously by nature has already attained a goal others must arrive at by more pedestrian methods. For those who do not have a flair to start with a systematic program is essential.

The aspiring bibliophile may propose to himself, for instance, that within each month he will read four or five books, each in a different field of interest. That does not mean, however, that any four or five books will fill the bill. Nor is it a matter of importance that the book should be hot from the press—rather that they should be solid and thought-provoking. It might very well be that Lord Bryce's *South America* (1912) would be more signifi-

cant from the point of view of book culture than a book newly reviewed on the same subject. It is well, however, to take advantage of newer views when these present themselves in substantial and meritorious form. In accordance with this general scheme one might read in a particular month the following: Graham Wallas' *Art of Thought*, a book far more fundamental than Dimnet's book which the public devoured so greedily not long since and one which opens up broad vistas in contemporary philosophy and psychology; Kenneth Murdock's life of *Increase Mather* (1925), from which the whole life and thought of seventeenth century America shines forth; Eddington's *Nature of the Physical World* for changing scientific conceptions; and some recent novel like Pearl Buck's *Good Earth* which gives us new feeling for life in a little understood part of the globe. This is not a random list, but one carefully chosen by one who has put the plan suggested into practice.

To achieve success, however, the books selected must be read in a very particular way. This is the crux of the whole matter. A cursory reading will not do. It must be painstaking, thoughtful, critical. It must enter into an understanding of the book in all the fullness of its subject-matter and in all the minuteness

of its footnotes. In fact this matter of footnotes is important if one is to make a book yield all its potential worth. They frequently acquaint the reader with a whole literature which he has never known and push his curiosity in new directions.

Reading of this completeness when followed systematically should create around one an atmosphere of books which others are eager to breathe. The books read have become a part of one's mental processes. Any idea or art or philosophy or aesthetic value that is in them has become a permanent enrichment. One remembers them and can talk of them to others in a magnetic way.

Of course such a program need be only minimal as far as the scope of one's reading is concerned. The element of diversification is the important thing in it. In addition it is desirable to have at least one specialty in which one's reading is exhaustive and learned. But special interests generally take care of themselves. Furthermore, any one with genuine book interests will do a good deal of exploring spontaneously beyond the limits of any plan. It will not impair the browsing instinct. It will lend weight, breadth, and direction. It will be a magical adjunct to one who wants to become adept in the art of book contagion.

DISCOVERY

The graceful strength of a tall elm
I had passed by, unnoting,
Till rain on the sidewalk
Made a smooth glass
In which, on looking down, I saw
A tree of such beauty and such symmetry,
Though blurred the outline,
And reversed the form,
That in the soaking rain
I stood and stared at what I'd missed.

KATHLEEN THOMPSON

Publicity in College Libraries

By CHARLES F. GOSNELL

Formerly Assistant, University of Rochester, N. Y., Library

PUBLICITY for libraries may be classified by purpose into two groups, for extending the service of the library, and for extending its ability to serve. The class of readers the college library serves is more clearly defined and limited than that which the public library serves, and forceful publicity is not vital to the existence of the college library. The main body of readers is made of students and faculty to whom the library is an everyday tool, though the tool may be used more or less widely and be pleasant or unpleasant to use. On the margin, special displays of new books, browsing rooms, exhibits, book lists and other forms of publicity are useful in increasing circulation.

Improvement of the library's ability to serve is less often sought by publicity. The attitude of the student is fairly fixed; he wants a good library, but there is little he can do about it. The faculty, too, believes in the library and in a showdown will fight for it. Yet much can be done to strengthen feeling on this point and build up prestige for the library. Apropos, a year's experiment in newspaper publicity for the University of Rochester Library is described.

No direct attempts were made to promote circulation or to get gifts or bigger appropriations. The library had just moved into a new building costing over a million dollars, appropriations were generous, and its collection was by far the largest in Rochester, a city of 350,000. The university had an enviable position in the community, and was expanding on a new campus. Use of the library had been extended for many years to anyone, regardless of his connection with the university. In this situation to have begged for readers or books might well have seemed foolish. The object of the publicity was to tell about the library and to build a reserve of consciousness of it. Attainment of such an object is hard to measure; the most convenient standard is the editor's decision on the copy, for if he used it, he thought it of interest. The sum of individual reactions that slowly filter back is valuable but intangible.

The chief item of interest for the year was the new building, one of thirteen on a new campus. Special writers were assigned by newspapers to cover the opening and dedication, and the duty of the library staff was to

supply any information the reporters wanted and then leave them alone; for reporters dislike being told how to write and editors hold in highest esteem the copy they pay their own men to get.

Next in interest was what the library was doing. Receipt of the first volume of the new *British Museum Catalog*, of the great Spanish encyclopaedia *Espasa*, made good news. Better was an exhibit and talk on fine bindings by John Grabau, Buffalo mastercraftsman. Perhaps most interesting, because it showed that the scholarly library was human, but not too human, and because it made a front page box at the top of a column, is this story¹:

Amos 'n' Andy Get in College Library

Fair Librarian Objects and Out They Go

Amos 'n' Andy got into the University of Rochester Library in the new Rhees building, yesterday, but they did not stay long. In fact, as soon as they were discovered, they were summarily ejected. They were found in shifting cards into the new cases for the giant card catalog which indexes all the books in the library.

The cards were all in their new drawers, and Miss Marguerite Hubbell, cataloger, was fixing labels when she found that the first card in one drawer was for Andrew Amos, who wrote a book on a poisoning in London Tower, but the book was written in 1846, and this is not the joke, anyway.

The last card in the drawer was for *Andvari's Ring*. Thus the label for the drawer was "Amos-Andy" but the "v" looked so like a "y" that Elenora Anethan, author of a book on Japan, was given last place in the drawer.

Then "Amos-Ane" was still beneath the dignity of the library, and Miss Hubbell, with the help of Mrs. E. B. Taylor, another cataloger, did some more fixing and wrote "Amos-Anf."

Gifts of rare treasures and even ordinarily useful books are nice to get. But a poor way to get them is to beg for them. Most people, and "public benefactors" in particular, like to bring honor upon themselves. Hence more people give to a library that is getting great gifts than to one that is in dire need. Stories about gifts both please donors and bring more gifts. These were written as occasion suggested.

General principles of writing followed here, and found by many others to be sound, were those familiar to all newspaper people. Stories must not be too long nor too meticulously ac-

¹ Rochester Democrat and Chronicle, August 30, 1931.

curate. Attention to niceties of library terminology and method unfamiliar to the newspaper reader is senseless; it seems better to permit slight inaccuracies than to thwart general understanding and interest. Long stories are seldom read by any but readers especially concerned. Short stories with high intensity of interest get better location and are more widely read. Perhaps the only library story to make the front page of the *New York Times* in 1930 was one of a hundred words on the new University of Rochester library building; there were several longer articles on other libraries, some with pictures, buried in inside pages between ads.

Good stories can be "made" in dull times. Setting up an interesting exhibit and then writing about it is a good example. But it is difficult and dangerous to manufacture news out of nothing, because the story will be either untrue or hopelessly thin. Exhibits at the library were changed every month, and duly announced.

Choice of newspapers is an important factor considered by every advertiser and publicity seeker. The media selected should cover the classes of people to whom the messages are directed without too much duplication and repetition. Once it "breaks" a story should not be repeated. On the list of media were of course the student newspaper and the alumni magazine. For the former regular news stories adapted to its needs were prepared, for the latter longer occasional articles. The city daily papers set more of a problem. The one morning paper had the largest circulation, particularly among the people likely to be interested in the university. The two big afternoon papers had smaller circulation, were less interested, and lacked the high standing. Accordingly, the morning paper got most attention, one evening paper some and the other none.

Rules for writing good stories are easy to be had, but it is better for the librarian to get

someone who already knows them than to bungle the work himself. Student reporters on college papers are always ready to try, and if the reporter works part time in the library too, the combination is excellent. Articles for the alumni magazine are nearest to the type of writing the librarian is familiar with. Work for the daily newspapers is the most difficult. They usually have student correspondents on the campus, to whom the librarian should always turn. These students are paid on a basis of the amount they get printed and they are anxious to get all the good material they can. They are jealous of any attempts to go over their heads to their editors, or to force them to take material that will only be refused. Their editors have confidence in them and often will rather buy material from them than take it free from outsiders.

The timing of stories is important in two respects. Although they may be written days ahead, they may often break with advantage on Mondays or days after holidays. For morning papers particularly the holiday lull leaves a dearth of spot news for next morning. Likewise there are days when things are very "tight" and often these are such as can be foreseen, such as elections, reports of special celebrations or big conferences. Many stories can be well written and yet be timely for a period of several days or even a month. They are welcomed as reserves and are often used within a week.

The result of this experiment, in space alone, was gratifying, over 5,000 lines in one paper, including several half-tone cuts. No definite estimate of the ultimate effect has been made. Only gradually will it become apparent. Yet it is felt that this experiment in library publicity, in which immediate reaction was not suggested or sought, shows that the program is a good one for enhancing the prestige of the college and university library in a sizeable community.

"The books which help you most are those which make you think most. The hardest way of learning is by easy reading; but a great book that comes from a great thinker—it is a ship of thought deep freighted with truth and beauty."

Two Studies on "Circulation Per Assistant"

By HARRY DEVEREAUX

Stack Supervisor, The New York Public Library

EVERY ADMINISTRATOR of branch library work has, at one time or another, felt the need for a method of securing an equitable distribution of assistants on a basis of the needs of the individual branch. Many attempts have been made to solve this problem, and to devise a simple formula which would accurately determine the number of assistants needed in each branch. Such a formula, if workable, would tend to remove the possibility of politics or favoritism entering into assignments, and would strengthen the position of the administrator in requests for larger staffs and appropriations. With all staffs allotted upon a uniform basis, the librarian could compare the efficiency of different branches within the same system, or of one system with another.

But in seeking such a formula, librarians are avowedly demanding a simple answer to a complex problem. Every library presents an individual problem, with variations in clientele, staff, physical plant, and book stock. The ideal method for allotment of staff assistants must either take each of these variations into consideration, or else be so flexible that it can disregard them. Investigators, so far, have assumed the impossibility of including all such variations in a single formula, and have sought a simpler statement based upon a single activity of the library.

Probably the best known and most widely used formula for staff allotment is that of "circulation per assistant." There are several reasons why a formula based on the ratio existing between total circulation of books and the number of assistants on the staff should be suggested. Functions and services of libraries may vary in different cities, but one factor common to all is the circulation of books. This is the basis of all library service; rightly or wrongly it is viewed as the main expression of the value of a library to its community. It is the library activity for which we have the best statistical record, and the only activity in which there is approximate uniformity of accounting. Thirdly, it has been assumed that with increased circulation of books, there will be an increase in the general work of the library, and that this increase will be, to some

extent, proportionate to the growth in circulation. Whether this last assumption is correct or not, remains to be proven.

The honor of originating this measure of "circulation per assistant" is claimed by the Chicago Public Library. Quoting from its *Staff News*¹:

Staff allotment in the branches on the basis of circulation is not only scientific and equitable, but it is conclusive and sensible. We have successfully functioned on this basis for ten years, allowing one full-time assistant for every 20,000 books circulated, to the satisfaction and happiness of the staff, and to the best interests of the public we serve. Chicago conceived this plan and claims full credit for it, and we find in recent years that other large libraries are "discovering" the same plan. Among other recommendations made in an exhaustive eighty-three-page survey of the Queens Borough Public Library is one suggesting that one assistant be allotted to each 20,000 circulation. . . . Now the latest authority on community service, William L. Bailey, Professor of Sociology at Northwestern University, advocates one full-time assistant for every 20,000 circulation, after making a study of libraries and their service to communities.

At the meeting of the "Librarians of Large Public Libraries" held in January 1925, this method of staff allotment came up for discussion, and in general was approved, although different views were expressed as to the ratio which would exist. Estimates of desirability ranged from one assistant to each 20,000 circulations, up to one assistant per 30,000 books circulated, the latter figure being suggested as the maximum which could be achieved without injury to the staff or service.

In February 1928, a list of research topics prepared by Dr. Charters was sent to the library schools, and under the general heading Circulation appeared the suggestion, "Investigate the ratio of assistants per 1000 volumes circulation." Since that date, at least two such investigations have appeared. The first, made by Henry G. Statham at the University of Illinois Library School, in 1929, was entitled "Some Aspects of the Relation Existing Between Circulation and Size of Staff in Five Branches of the Chicago Public Library."

Chatham's primary consideration was to determine if any ratio of total circulation to necessary size of staff could be applied to the

¹ Chicago Public Library, *Staff News*, March, 1929. p. 51.

five branch libraries under consideration; Legler, Woodlawn, Sheridan, Albany, and Ogden. In order to ascertain this, it was necessary to know if the average time required for circulating one volume was approximately the same in all the branches. If this were true, he believed it would be a comparatively simple matter to devise a formula for the allotment of assistants. Time sheets of each day's activities were kept by the staff members in the five branches, for a period of one week. From these sheets, it was possible to determine roughly the total time spent in work relating directly to the circulation of books. Certain tasks such as shelf reading, readers' aid service, story hours, school visits, and general administration, were omitted from his study, since they would have made the survey too broad, and his greatest need was to determine only the time spent by the branches in the performance of a certain uniform portion of their total work. Dividing the weekly circulation by the total time spent on circulation work during that week by each branch gave the average minutes per book circulated. This ranged from 2.85 minutes to 3.47 minutes per book circulation, with an average time for all five branches of 3.08 minutes. Multiplying the average time by the total annual circulation gave the total time spent in circulation work during the year, and dividing this latter figure by the total time worked during the year per staff member, gave the total number of staff members needed to handle circulation work alone. This hypothetical circulation staff was then divided into the total annual circulation to determine the average annual circulation per hypothetical staff member. A similar study was made of the time spent in answering reference questions, and it was determined that the average time spent per reference question was 5.40 minutes, though one branch averaged as low as 3.25 minutes, and another took 11.31 minutes. When expressed in percentages of the highest circulation per assistant, actual and hypothetical, the result may be tabulated as follows:

Branch	A	B	C	D	E
Actual staff member.					
General work . . . .	.838	.808	1.000	.932	.907
Hypothetical staff member. Circulation only	1.000	.821	.944	.983	.854
Hypothetical staff member. Reference only	.649	.378	.605	1.000	.288
Hypothetical staff member doing both reference and circulation	.965	.841	.931	1.000	.899

The fact that Branch A, with the highest circulation per hypothetical staff member doing only circulation work, has the lowest circulation per staff member doing general branch

work, implies that factors other than circulation work affect the circulation per assistant in a branch library. The explanation that Branch A (Legler) is a regional branch offers a partial solution, but does not explain the variation of the other branches. Only Branch D maintains a fairly constant position. Many reasons might be advanced to explain the variation in the percentages for the hypothetical assistant doing only reference work. This exceptional variation is due probably to variations in the training of the reference workers, inequalities in the reference collection, and in the type of readers served. When the figures for the hypothetical assistant doing reference work only are compared with the actual assistant doing general library work, a striking lack of agreement is noted. This same lack of agreement is noted when the percentage is calculated for the hypothetical assistant doing both circulation and reference work. A and D, which are lowest in actual branch general work, are highest in work per hypothetical assistant doing general work. This would seem to indicate that reference work has little influence upon the average circulation per assistant in the branch. It is possible that what uniformity is shown in the above table may be artificially maintained by the practice which the Chicago Public Library followed in making allotments of one assistant per 20,000 volumes circulated.

Chatham also made a study of the average number of years of education above the grade schools for each of the branch library staffs. He credited each year of high school, library training course, secretarial course, or correspondence school course, as one year, and allowed two years credit for each year of college or library school work, since they were considered of proportionately greater value. The table follows:

Branch	A	B	C	D	E
Years of education.	5.30	6.54	6.66	5.56	6.00

It is noted that Branches A and D, which were consistently high in circulation and reference work per hypothetical staff member, and low in general branch work per actual staff member, are low in average years of education above grade schools.

In general, Chatham's conclusions were negative. He felt that the results of his study indicated too large a divergence in the work of the branches to enable a person to devise a formula for the allotment of assistants. He indicates that factors other than circulation and reference work affect the circulation per assistant in the branch. His own studies upon the relation of the education and personality

of the staff member failed to indicate their influence as being very strong.

The second investigation into the subject was completed by the present writer while at the School of Library Service, Columbia University, in 1931, and was a study of "The Circulation per Assistant in the New York Public Library System of Branches in the Borough of Manhattan." It was based on a general survey of thirty-one branches, their neighborhoods, clientèle, and buildings, and included a study of the effect of book stock, circulation, registration, and stock turnover on the average circulation per assistant. Due to time limitations, the survey was restricted to Manhattan, and it should be noted that the results obtained, such as they are, indicate conditions as they exist in a highly commercialized and industrialized territory. They will probably differ from those obtained in a system of branches located in a district primarily residential.

In the thirty-one branches studied, the average circulation per assistant, including clerks and pages, during 1930, was 17,220. The median was 15,934 and the mode was 15,553. The lowest circulation per assistant was 12,479 volumes, and the highest was 25,167. Excluding clerks and pages, the average circulation per assistant was calculated at 19,595, which comes near to the Chicago figure of one assistant per 20,000 circulations.

Since Manhattan is made up of so many foreign races, it was felt necessary to gain some estimate of the influence of racial reading habits upon circulation per assistant in the branches. It was impossible to get a statistical statement of the use of the library according to the nationality of the reader, but after conversations with the branch librarians, the following list was compiled showing the races according to their decreasing use of the branch library: American Jew, average American, Czech, German, Irish, Russian, Pole, Spanish, immigrant Jew, Italian, Greek, and Negro. Branch libraries located in districts populated largely by Americans of Jewish descent ranked first, second, and fourth in highest circulation per assistant, and first, third, and seventh, in total circulation. Of the six lowest ranking branches in circulation per assistant, the twenty-sixth was located in a Greek and Italian neighborhood, the twenty-seventh, twenty-eighth, and thirty-first are in Italian sections, the twenty-ninth is Greek, and the thirtieth is Negro. That this lack of use of the branch library is due in part to economic and educational disabilities, as well as to racial reading habits, may be seen from the fact that the nine highest ranking branches in circulation per

assistant are located in the better class apartment house districts, while of the last twelve on the list, eight are listed as tenement districts, and three as cheap apartment house neighborhoods. Circulation per assistant is affected in at least two ways by the racial blocs in Manhattan. There is constant shifting of the neighborhoods and the clientèle of a branch library may change almost entirely in a few years. When a library-using race moves out of a district, and a non-using race moves in, it is necessary for the librarian to exert more effort per circulation. Added effort provides the excuse for maintaining a large staff, even though the circulation is decreasing. As a result, the circulation per assistant falls lower and lower. Another reason is that the assistant working with races having a low general level of education, and a lack of knowledge of library customs, must spend more time per circulation than is necessary in a branch used largely by an English speaking and reading clientèle.

The question would naturally arise in a study of Manhattan libraries as to the effect of New York building conditions upon the administration of the branch libraries. Since property values are so high, it has been necessary for libraries to expand vertically rather than horizontally as they can do in other cities. Many of the older branch buildings were built with three floors, basement, and roof garden, though at the present time only twelve are using the third floor and none is using the roof garden. A comparison was made between the circulation per assistant and the number of floors in use in each of the thirty-one branches. These were divided into two groups and it was found that the first group, made up of the three-floor branches, circulated 16,190 books per assistant. The second group, or two-floor branches, circulated 17,871 books per assistant. This is an increase of 1,680 books circulated per assistant by the two-floor branches, and represents a gain of nine and one-half per cent in the circulation activity per assistant.

High circulation per assistant was found associated in many branches with a high circulation of adult books, rather than with a large total circulation. In an endeavor to explain this, separate studies were made of the relations existing between total, adult, and juvenile circulation, and the circulation per assistant. Likewise the relation of the book stocks, stock turnover, and registration were examined for each of the circulation groups: total, adult, and juvenile. The general results may most easily be shown in the following table, which indicates the degree of cor-

relation existing between each of these groups and circulation per assistant.

	Adult	Total	Juvenile
Circulation .....	.8290	.6517	.2420
Turnover of book stock..	.7884	.6525	.3716
Registration .....	.7174	.6361	.3771
Book stock .....	.6088	.5409	.2474

It may be seen that the correlation existing between high circulation per assistant and high circulation of books is rather close. Turnover of book stock, which is obtained by dividing the circulation by the book stock, ranks second in its agreement with high circulation per assistant, indicating the influence of high circulation again, since the statistics for book stock alone, show the least agreement of any of the groups studied. High registration shows a moderate agreement with high circulation per assistant.

The most noticeable feature of the above table is that the correlation is far greater between high circulation per assistant and the work of the adult department, than with the work of the juvenile department. This does not imply that the statistics for the adult department would offer a better basis for calculating size of staff, but it does indicate that in a library whose clientele is largely adult, it is possible to have a higher circulation per assistant (i.e., a smaller staff per unit circulation) than is possible in a branch whose clientele is largely juvenile. This is due to the fact that the work of the juvenile department is crowded into a short period during the day, and creates a demand for extra assistants which does not exist at any other time. Thus, while the juvenile room is usually open from 9:00 A.M. to 6:00 P.M. each school day, the circulation is limited almost entirely to the hours between 3:00 and 6:00 P.M. During these rush hours, assistants are called from the adult division to aid the children's room staff. Since the peak of the juvenile rush coincides in part with the busy afternoon hours of the adult division, it is necessary to have a staff large enough to cover both departments at a time when both are busiest, and therefore a larger staff is needed than would be necessary if the juvenile circulation were spread more evenly throughout the day. This larger staff, in turn, results in a lower circulation per assistant for the branch as a whole, especially in those branches having a relatively large juvenile circulation.

The true expression of the validity of the measure "circulation per assistant" should be found in the correlation existing between circulation and size of staff. If it could be shown that as circulation increases, the staff

increases in a similar proportion, then the expression of a formula or standard for staff allotment would be easier. To demonstrate this, it is necessary to calculate the degree of correlation existing between circulation and size of staff. This was done separately for total, adult, and juvenile circulations, in each of the branches. The coefficient of correlation existing between total circulation and staff was calculated at .7902 with a probable error of .0455. Usually this would be considered as a high degree of correlation, but it was surpassed by the figure obtained in the correlation of juvenile circulation and staff, which was calculated at .8936 with a probable error of only .0244. Adult circulation and staff were found to have little correlation, the coefficient being expressed as .5113 with a probable error of .0907.

Roughly speaking, the very high coefficient of correlation existing between total juvenile circulation and size of staff means that as the juvenile circulation increases, the total staff of an average Manhattan branch increases in approximate proportion, the deviation from perfect agreement being .1064, plus or minus the probable error of .0244. Thus for the system as a whole, the total deviation should not be more than .1308 and might be as low as .0820. The reason for this close agreement between juvenile circulation and staff is probably to be found in the large staffs needed during the afternoon rush in the juvenile department. In those branches in which the juvenile circulation was proportionately larger it would be necessary to have a larger staff, and this staff would vary in size according to the juvenile circulation of the branch. The adult circulation, spread more evenly through the day, would not affect so definitely the number of staff assistants.

If a formula for allotting assistants to the average Manhattan branches was desired, probably the most accurate one based on circulation statistics would be the ratio existing between the total number of assistants and the total annual juvenile circulation of the thirty-one branches. Since there were 2,357,351 juvenile books circulated in 1930, by branch staffs totaling 360.5 members, the average juvenile circulation per staff member is 6,539 volumes. If that figure is divided into the annual juvenile circulation of an average Manhattan branch, the resulting figure should be the approximate total staff needed by the branch, allowing for a deviation of .1308 of the number.

But this formula, as with all formulas based upon circulation statistics, works only with the average branch, or with the system taken

as a whole. Its accuracy breaks down when it is applied to branches markedly above or below the average in circulation, and it has the added disadvantage that since it is based on only part of the total circulation, extremes in either adult or juvenile circulation will tend to throw it off. In a territory similar to Manhattan, the rigid enforcement of a rule allotting assistants to branches on a basis of either total or juvenile circulation would be dangerous, due to the extreme variation shown in circulation per assistant. As was shown, the branch with the lowest circulation per assistant averaged only 12,479 volumes per staff member, while the highest circulation per assistant recorded was 25,167. With such a wide range,

it is unlikely that any formula could be found which would fit all branches perfectly.

It was hoped at the beginning of the study that some such definite formula could be devised to answer the needs of administrator of work with branches. But both investigators were forced to confess their inability to devise such a formula. The present writer has come to the conclusion that there can be no substitute for judgment, experience, and knowledge of branch conditions, upon the part of the administrator who must allot branch staffs. The librarian may use such ratios as he likes in preliminary work, but the actual allotment must be made according to the individual branch needs, if the administration is to be successful and equitable.

Censorship—A Library Problem

By WILLIAM F. YUST

Former Librarian, Rochester, N. Y., Public Library¹

A YEAR AGO last summer it was my good fortune to visit some of the scenes of my boyhood on a farm in Kansas. On my calling list was an aged couple, the man eighty-eight years old, the woman of uncertain age but also over eighty. They had had seventeen children, all now living but one. They were members of a religious sect called "Campbellites."

These "Campbellites" did some queer things, at least, they seemed queer to a boy brought up in an orthodox Methodist atmosphere. One performance especially impressed itself on my youthful mind. One of their members married my aunt. Aunt Louise had been christened in her infancy in due and ancient form according to Methodist ritual, but when she married the Campbellite the ceremony had to be repeated and corrected. So they took her to a creek in the dead of winter, cut the ice open and immersed her.

But to return to our octogenarian. He had given the church, from his 160 acre homestead, a plot of ground on which to build a church building on condition that there should never be a musical instrument brought into it. Incidentally, while I was calling on him, a piano was being played in the next

room by one of his grandchildren—played pretty well too.

How long that unfortunate restriction will hold, only time can tell, but there is the foundation of censorship. From time immemorial people with strong convictions and determination have sought to impose their beliefs upon people who have different beliefs. Illiberality, bigotry and intolerance have played havoc in the world.

The printed page, easy to issue in large quantities and distribute widely, has come to possess the most powerful possibilities for disseminating heresy, heresy in religion, in economics, in art, literature and history. This problem began long before the invention of printing and continues to the present day.

We librarians are confronted by it continuously and discuss it periodically. Only three years ago Mr. Paine spoke on it before this association under the title "The Library Must be Free." Hardly a month passes without its appearance in print in some form or other. The literature on the subject is a small library in itself.

An exhaustive study of censorship in Massachusetts appeared in the 1930 volume of *Boston University Law Review*, 10:36-60, 147-94, and 488-509. An excellent article from the library standpoint is by Dr. George F. Bowerman in his book of addresses published last year. The most thorough and exhaustive treatment is the volume of 507 pages on the subject by the H. W. Wilson Company.

¹Address given before the New York Library Association, Lake Placid, September, 1931.

²Mr. Yust is now librarian of Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida.

There is probably no topic in the whole realm of a librarian's professional reading that affords richer entertainment than that of book censorship. When Anthony Comstock passed away it looked as if interest might wane, but not so. A high level of enthusiasm has been maintained, even to the Yarrow incident last summer in Chicago.

Legislators also have found it necessary to give the subject some of their valuable time. The phase of it which pursues them most is obscene literature. Every state in the Union has its law on this subject. Agitation in the Middle West appears frequently in such states as Illinois, Indiana and Kansas. In the East, Massachusetts and New York take the lead. New York because it publishes so many books and Massachusetts possibly because it, or Boston, has to decide whether the books are fit to read.

In these two eastern states the legislature unfortunately meets every year and censorship bills appear with almost equal frequency. Heretofore there has been a distinct and important difference between the laws of these states. The Massachusetts law has been rather drastic. It permitted prosecution and conviction on the basis of separate passages, phrases and words. As a result Massachusetts has a blacklist of considerable length hanging from the belt of the Watch and Ward Society. Time will not permit consideration of this uncertain list or the larger joint list of the United States postal and customs officers or the still larger Index of books prohibited by the Roman Catholic Church.

Massachusetts authors and librarians have been trying for years to get their law modified so that a book might be judged as a whole rather than by separate passages. It is reported that they have finally succeeded to a certain extent.

In New York State the situation is just the reverse. Here the law permits a book to be judged as a whole, even though it may be objectionable in spots. Under it a few publishers have been convicted and punished. Prosecution however is different because of the old question "What really constitutes obscene literature?" Here is what the penal law says:

"A person who sells, lends, gives away or shows . . . any obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, indecent or disgusting book, magazine, pamphlet, newspaper, story paper, writing, paper, picture, drawing photograph, figure or image or any written or printed matter of an indecent character . . . is guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be sentenced to not less than ten days nor more than one year imprisonment or be fined not less than fifty dollars nor more than one thousand dollars or both fine and imprisonment for each offense."

This is the law in abbreviated form. In its full form it is five times as long and prescribes the same penalty for anyone who writes or prints or advertises such material or has it in his possession with intent to sell, etc. The same applies to publishing "accounts of criminal deeds or pictures or stories of deeds of bloodshed, lust or crime."

Years ago an amendment to this law was introduced, known as the "Clean Books Bill." It sought to clarify the statute by adding that the words obscene, lewd, lascivious, filthy, indecent and disgusting should be construed in their commonly accepted meaning. Another difficulty for the prosecutor is that the courts have insisted on judging a book as a whole and not on certain nasty passages. So the amendment stated that an indictment might be brought against a publication as a whole or against any part or parts of it. And finally it excluded expert testimony.

In favor of the bill were such organizations as the New York State Federation of Churches, the Federation of Catholic Societies, the Protestant Episcopal Church of New York, the Society for the Suppression of Commercialized Vice, the Boy Scouts, the Y.M.C.A., the Knights of Columbus and the Salvation Army. These forces were led by Justice Ford of the Supreme Court of the State, who had organized the "Clean Books League" after his daughter had obtained a so-called vile and degrading book from a circulating library in New York City. These forces argued that:

"The State endeavors by laws relating to public hygiene to protect innocent persons from the physical contamination of rotten men. It also endeavors to protect the public from the moral contamination of rotten books."

In opposition practically as a unit were the papers in news columns and editorial pages on the ground that the liberty of the press was in danger. The Authors League waxed warm against it at the eleventh hour. One author claimed that those in favor "are seeking permanently to destroy all artistic and cultural privilege in this country" and that "no more sly, malicious, and intellectually throttling legislation ever came before an American legislative body."

The final debate was lively but the bill was killed. As a result indecency in books, magazines and papers will continue to be permitted so long as it appears only in spots and is not overdone. A bill like this varying in minor details from year to year has been introduced in the New York State Legislature many times but always without success.

In public libraries the problem of censor-

ship is universal. Last summer the librarian of the Rochester Public Library received the following letter:

Dear Sir:

"I wish to call attention to the profane language used in some of the books at the Court Street Library.

"1. Book No. 940.48 called, *American Fighters in the Foreign Legion*, by Rockwell. Page 60, 4th line.

"2. Book No. 940.41, *Suicide Battalions* by Westover. Two places around pages 224 and 260, words beginning with S.... and B....

"As a citizen of Rochester, it seems to me books of that sort should be considered obscene, and the objectionable phrases obliterated. No books circulated in a public library should contain words or phrases that are not permissible in newspapers, magazines, on the stage, or in decent conversation. Suppose a boy or a girl reads that stuff. The impression obtained would be that if these profane words can be published and circulated, then why not use them *always, anywhere*.

"You should be more careful in selecting books. The public depends on you for their reading matter, and as a municipal officer, you are responsible to the public.

"Please attend to this matter, and examine carefully all other so-called war books for obscene words.

"Awaiting your reply"

Yours very truly,
(Signed)

The Librarian's reply:

Dear Sir:

"I have your letter stating that certain books in the Central Library contain obscene language which should be obliterated. The two books which you mention rank fairly well as description of war conditions. In their choice of language they compare favorably with most war books. War brings out the worst in human nature, including bad words. Any book which gives a real picture of war will include some of the bad language used.

"You are right in characterizing such words and phrases as objectionable. But I fear that the method proposed for getting them out of books would make the matter worse. To obliterate them by a surgical operation ever so delicate would only call special attention to them and lay the obliterator open to the charge of mutilating books, which is punishable by fine and imprisonment.

"If the Librarian were to start this obliterating process, there would be no end to his activities. He could not consistently stop at war books. Much current fiction, the *Bible*, Shakespeare and the classics would all come under his knife. The next step would be to cut out all objectionable suggestions, ideas, doctrines and theories. Even that has been tried in ages past.

"You are correct nevertheless in emphasizing the importance of clean language in books for public circulation. The library authorities are keenly conscious of their responsibility in this matter, although they are often in a dilemma. Certain books are sure to be under fire. If the Library has them, it is criticised because they are objectionable. If the Library does not have them, it is criticised for its censorship.

"In dealing with this problem the Library makes

a distinction between Central and branches. The branch libraries are relatively small popular collections, where all books are on open shelves to which everyone has free access. In selecting books for them a more rigid standard is observed. There we like to say that all the books are, like Caesar's wife, above suspicion. Particular care is exercised in choosing books for the children's rooms in branch libraries.

"The Central Library however has no room for children and no books for them. There the size of the book collection and the nature of the service require a different arrangement. There we feel freer to place books of all kinds, including some about which people may differ strongly but which they may rightly expect to find in the public library of a city like Rochester. There books of that kind may be obtained on request. In a large collection such books soon find their proper relative place in the literature of the world.

"Please accept my thanks for bringing up this problem and giving me the opportunity to make this explanation."

Yours very truly,
William F. Yust,
Librarian.

Some years ago the Superintendent of Schools in Rochester received a letter objecting to one of the stories in *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, which was in our grade library collection. The letter was forwarded to the Librarian of the Public Library who agreed with the complainant. As a result the book was withdrawn from circulation and the following letter sent to several publishers:

Harper and Brothers
49 East 33rd Street
New York
Gentlemen:

"We have been confronted by a problem in Rochester which may be of interest to you. The story of the Jew in the Bramble-bush, which appears in many volumes of Grimm, has given offense to a number of Jews in our city. These objections have come from broadminded people of culture and refinement who can see no reason why the particular rogue in the story should be a Jew, or why children of today should have a certain inherent racial prejudice which seems to be there fostered by the fairy tales which the schools and libraries provide for them. Whether or not their attitude is super-sensitive, or whether one personally agrees, seems to me beside the point. But the fact remains that the story in this form has no particular merit or positive value over those versions of it in which the rogue is simply a rogue.

"Although we have found no other libraries which have had difficulty with this particular story it has been decided that no more editions of Grimm which include it in this form may be purchased for the schools or the public library. The edition of Grimm most satisfactory in my opinion for all library needs as to text, size, print, illustrations and wearing quality is the Louis Rhead illustrated edition published by your house. It is with decided regret that we are searching for an edition with which to replace it.

"My purpose in writing to you is to express the hope that at some future time you may see fit to replace the version you are now using of this par-

ticular story with some other, equally funny but free from the barest possibility of keeping alive any one of our prejudices."

Yours very truly,
(Signed) Julia L. Sauer,
Head of Children's Department.

To this the publishers replied:

Miss Julia L. Sauer,
Rochester Public Library,
Exposition Park,
Rochester, New York.

Dear Miss Sauer:

"Let us thank you for your letter of April 4. So far as we know, this story by the Grimms has never been questioned, and we gather from your letter that you know of no other library which has taken such a drastic course as yours. Publishers are open-minded about questions of this sort, and they welcome persons in authority like yourself who bring these issues to their attention.

"This is certainly the feeling of Harper and Brothers, and although you have decided against the Louis Rhead edition of *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, we appreciate your informing us of the fact and of your reason for banning it in Rochester.

"We have examined the story in question and we see no reason for making the man a Jew. We agree with you that he might be an Italian, an Englishman, or a Frenchman. We have, therefore, deleted the word "Jew" as it appears in the story so that in future editions of the book there will be no race indication whatever. The copies of the book now in the trade are, of course, beyond our reach, but we shall have these changes made in all future copies.

"We deeply appreciate what you say about about the way we make and illustrate the Louis Rhead books. The entire series is intended for library use, and we should deeply regret anything which limited this usefulness."

Very truly yours
(Signed) Harper and Brothers

The same letter was sent to Frederick Warne and Company, who replied that nothing could be done about it at that time. But within a week we have had word from this firm that in the next edition of *The House in the Wood*, which includes the offending story, the same change will be made. These experiences show a fine spirit on the part of the publishers. They also suggest that when Rochester finds fault with a book it takes the matter up with the publishers and has the book changed.

Recently *All Quiet on the Western Front* was removed from our high school libraries on account of objectionable passages. The public library however retains and duplicates it in all the branches because it is such a

strong indictment of war. We also have the original German edition.

Our method of book selection provides that every book of this type must first be read by a member of the staff and a signed report recommending its purchase must be filed for record before the book is added to the shelves. The policy of the library is to have these reports made careful but not censorious, in keeping with the sane and progressive thought of the day.

The results in general are very satisfactory. But there are exceptions, which cause complaint. In some cases books of fiction have been changed from the open to the closed shelves; others have been entirely withdrawn from circulation in the branches upon receipt of complaints based on conspicuous evidence. Occasionally this has been done even when the objection was not impressive. In those cases it was deemed more important to have the readers continue their established relationship with the library than to have the library impress its position of freedom and independence upon the readers and thereby lessen its influence with that type of reader. If the complainant is right, he should be heeded; if he is in error, the chief hope of enlarging his vision lies in his further use of the library. In other words, the practical good of the library service is paramount rather than the theoretical vindication of the principle of freedom.

A word about ourselves. We librarians like to say we are liberal, and I believe we are. We like to think we are free from narrowness and prejudice, and I believe we are free, almost free, and we hold that the Library should be free. Nevertheless book censorship of a kind is quite extensive and is practiced by every library more or less. No one can escape this conviction who has attended the sessions of this conference on work with children and work with prisoners. We are all pretty closely related to children. We even have traits in common with people behind the bars, whether they are there on account of weakness or sickness or infractions of the law.

It seems to me therefore that absolute rules on the subject of book censorship are unwise and unwarranted. What we need with reference to it is an attitude rather than a position, an attitude of open-mindedness that will adjust itself to conditions and cases as they arise.

When a man says he sees nothing in a book, he very often means that he does not see himself in it.

—A. W. AND J. C. HARE in *Gusses at Truth*

THE LIBRARY JOURNAL

February 15, 1932

Editorial Forum

IT HAS BECOME a habit to say to ourselves that we are living in a changing world, and the A. L. A. in accordance therewith has adopted the phrase "The library in a changing world" as a slogan for the New Orleans conference. If anyone doubts that the world is changing, let him read the prelude in Allen's *Only Yesterday* which marks the sharp contrast that the few years since the war closed have brought about. Perhaps the world has changed less with regard to library work than in some other respects for the war days brought about developments which are yet in action, and library service to readers demands the same qualities of character which it has always required. The thought of salvaging "the human product of the Machine Age" which will be emphasized in the Hospital Libraries Round Table, has an even wider application in our libraries, which are, in fact, seeking to salvage men and women morally from the undue depression which present circumstances have brought about.

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY Association was but thirteen years old when it made its only visit to New Orleans through the large post-conference deputation which followed the first St. Louis conference of 1889. The happy voyage down the Mississippi in one of the old-fashioned stern wheelers will always be remembered by the few survivors from that last century date for its many interesting episodes. New Orleans represents the real South of the olden times, as distinguished from the industrial South of which Atlanta is the example—the South of George W. Cable and *Old Creole Days*. Library pilgrims from the North who attend the 1932 conference will traverse a portion of the country which the A. L. A. has not before officially set eyes on, and the journey will be worth while.

"TAKE TIME and think it over" is the counsel wisely given by the Committee on Pensions as to the elaborate scheme which it carefully places before the A. L. A. It is, in fact, improbable that much active headway in the direction of annuities and pensions can be arranged under present conditions, but the plans which have been so long talked over will some day become fact and now is the time to thrash them out for the future. "Group insurance," adopted by so many large concerns, is probably the right scheme and the committee point out that it may be applied either within individual libraries or for members of the A. L. A. as such. Whether it would be desirable to add to the multifarious work at headquarters the new task of handling the details of such a plan may, however, be doubted in view of the fact that such great insurance companies as the Metropolitan, the Equitable and the like are organized to carry on this part of the work.

BOOK KNOWLEDGE, which Mr. Borden points out will never enable anyone to make others book-conscious if based only on the skimming of books by the reading of the preface, the chapter headings, the beginning and the conclusion, makes one wonder why so many of us are going up and down this well-read world with literary baggage so meagre that it is hardly worth putting up in the rack of the train we are travelling on. Scarcely a day passes over our heads on which no eye of scorn has fallen on some detail or other of our destitution. The talk turns to Southey, or Landor, Rabelais, or Ariosto and then it all comes out; not a one have we read. Then the lips of the tactful are almost imperceptibly closed and those of the less tactful may be balefully opened. How does any adult come by such indigency? Has there never been a call to go out wandering over the crooked hills of literary lore? We are all familiar with the too few acquaintances who, in their great knowledge of books, make us hasten away to seek out volumes on the shelves and determine to become more friendly with the great books within our easy reach. May the epidemic of book contagion, which is no more than the blending of book knowledge with book enthusiasm, become so prevalent that there will be no librarian unable to talk about books and spread book enthusiasm founded on a real love and understanding, not on a mere skimming of chapter headings or reading of book reviews. To inspire a divine discontent in the reading of others is an art possessing no magic formula.

LIBRARY HISTORY records no finer example of devotion, in life and death, than that of Lewis Cass Ledyard as president for fifteen years and as trustee for as many more years previously of the New York Public Library. With John L. Cadwalader a generation ago, Mr. Ledyard cooperated, diplomatically and legally, in framing solidly for the future of this greatest of public libraries on the sure basis of the Astor, Lenox and Tilden Foundation in the days of that great librarian, Dr. John S. Billings. Since then millions have been added to the Foundation by generous givers, trustees and others, and in his will Mr. Ledyard left an additional two million dollars to make the Foundation more adequate for its developing future. He has done more than this and made a very noteworthy precedent in his bequests of \$40,000 each to Edwin H. Anderson, director, and Harry M. Lydenberg, assistant director, in recognition both of their unstinted devotion to the interests of the Library and of his own appreciation of the personal relations with them. To say that the recognition is well deserved is unnecessary, but it is worth while to emphasize this precedent of the recognition by a trustee of a relationship which has been a model of its kind.

IN OUR interesting excerpt from the recent pamphlet on library administration issued by the Soviet library authorities, one may read various things between the lines, one, of course, being the fact—very flattering to American librarians—that the Soviet libraries have looked, and are continuing to look, to our own for a considerable degree of suggestion and guidance in matters of technique. The word “propaganda,” which is the same in Russian as in English, has been retained in the translation and one may see by the final paragraph that it has not been used simply as a synonym for “publicity.” The statement that American library publicity is always propaganda for capitalism, while that of the Soviet’s is altogether unbiased, will astonish most of our readers, as our understanding has always been that the precise opposite is the case. We can assure our Russian brethren that we have always prided ourselves on the absence of partisanship in our libraries and we still think that that pride is justified. If the Soviet libraries can make the same boast, what we have been hearing of them in the past has been misrepresentation, to say the least.

A. E. B.

Library Chat

LIBRARIES HAVE BEEN housed in all sorts of structures, churches, houses, stores, schools, fire and police stations, etc. When a library takes over a bank the occurrence must be rare enough, however, to have some news interest. On February 1st the Hyde Park Branch of the Scranton, Pa., Public Library moved into a well equipped bank building on the busiest corner of a section of the city with some forty thousand inhabitants. A consolidation of banks made the Keystone Bank Building vacant and the directors with commendable public spirit leased the building to the Library Trustees on generous terms. The banking desk has been adapted to library needs and a fine dignified quarters are now available for library use. By the irony of fate, the Scranton Library at a time it never felt the need less, is now supplied with a splendid vault and burglar proof safe, which are a part of the new branch quarters.

THE FOLLOWING letter was received from Helen E. Ellis in reply to a request to know something about the work of the New Bedford, Massachusetts, Whaler on Wheels, a wandering book shop:

“Our wandering book shop is a commercial enterprise. We sell books from the car and also take orders. For this reason we do not take the car to cities where there are book shops. In the neighborhood of New Bedford there are many summer colonies and we planned our car primarily to keep in closer touch with the summer people. During the autumn for the sake of advertising and in order to increase our business we have continued to keep the car on the road and will do so during December. Our license permits us to sell books anywhere in the state of Massachusetts so that we have taken it far afield and have done business in small towns throughout the state. On one or two occasions we have shown the car to librarians who were interested. I think the suggestion of Mrs. Becker in the New York *Herald Tribune* Book Review to take a selection of fifty books from the year’s publication of children’s books from library to library for display purposes throughout the country, could be worked out with a caravan such as ours. The small libraries in country towns I think could be greatly assisted in this way as they could see the new books at hand. I think also that a car of this sort could be used for lending libraries in connection with large companies such as Womrath and the Personal Book Shop in Boston. As our shop is small we are doing all that we can to sell books and our rental library is a small though necessary part of our business.”

Librarian Authors

EDWIN OSGOOD GROVER, "Professor of Books" at Rollins College, Winter Park, Florida, although comparatively a newcomer in the college teaching field has spent his entire life in the association of books. He is a native of the Middle West, coming from the prairies of southern Minnesota. He was born in the town of Mantorville, but spent practically all of his boyhood among the hills of New England. He was educated at St. Johnsbury (Vermont) Academy, and Dartmouth College, with graduate work at Harvard. For thirty years, after leaving Dartmouth and Harvard and spending eight months in Europe, he was successively salesman, advertising manager, editor, and publisher of books and magazines. Five years were spent with Ginn and Company in Chicago and Boston and four years as editor for Rand McNally and Company in Chicago, where he started their now large juvenile and text book lists. The second book he saw through the press was his sister's *Sunbonnet Babies*, followed by the *Overall Boys*.

He spent seven years as vice-president and editor of Atkinson, Mentzer and Grover, and later was president of The Prang Company for fourteen years. He had the pleasure of starting a number of authors and artists on the road to fame and it has been a joy to him to see them make good the promise which he recognized in their first work. For a time he was literary advisor for P. F. Volland Company and discovered Johnny Gruelle, the creator of the now famous *Raggedy Ann and Andy* books. He also suggested to Lucy Fitch Perkins that she write the delightful series of "Twin Books," and one of the treasures of his private collection is the original pencil manuscript of *The Dutch Twins* with a hundred or more pencil sketches which Mrs. Perkins presented him as a souvenir.

In 1908 he developed with Binner-Wells Company the high-light halftone engraving process for the reproduction of pencil sketches, and the following years was the first to adapt the offset printing process to the printing of text books.

Seven years ago he retired from the publishing business and President Holt appointed him Professor of Books at Rollins College. His work as Professor of Books has led to the publication of an undergraduate literary magazine called *The Flamingo*, and an anthology of poems by twenty-two Rollins undergraduates entitled *The Rollins Book of Verse*. Three undergraduates have also published small books



Edwin Osgood Grover

of distinguished verse through his private press called The Angel Alley Press. He has found time to edit a number of gift books, such as *The Book of Good Cheer*, *My Little Book of Emerson*, and *A Little Book of Courage*, for P. F. Volland Company, and two "Knapsack Books," the *Nature Lover's Knapsack* and the *Animal Lover's Knapsack* for Thomas Y. Crowell Co. In both his "Knapsacks" he has gathered up the harvest of his years of reading and research, and has made anthologies marked by breadth of selection and discriminating choice. He has also written a volume of *Never Grow Old Stories* for children and has nearly ready for publication a narrative account of the history of printing to be called *The Romance of the Book*. "Annals of an Era," a biographical bibliography of the writings of Percy MacKaye and four generations of the MacKaye family edited by Mr. Grover will be published in March by Dartmouth College.

In 1927 the Rollins College Library was remodeled and reorganized under his direction. In 1931 he resigned as Director of the College Library although he remains as chairman of the Library Committee.

A. L. A. Midwinter Meetings

American Library Institute

AT THE MIDWINTER MEETING of the American Library Institute held at the Drake Hotel, Chicago, during the Christmas recess, the President, Theodore W. Koch, opened a discussion of Library Planning and Equipment. By means of stereopticon pictures he explained the evolution of the plans for the Charles Deering Library. In order to help visualize the type of simplified Gothic buildings he showed pictures of the recently completed law library at the University of Michigan and the preliminary sketch of the library of the University of Pittsburgh. The interior of the reading room of the library at the University of Washington, Seattle, the Sterling Memorial Library at Yale and the Sterling Law Library and others were shown.

In discussing "Furniture for Libraries," Mr. Ralph C. Erskine, a designer and maker of furniture, president of the Erskine-Danforth Corporation, said that he did not wish to belittle the importance of great and inspiring personalities on a faculty, but they come and go while the library rooms are always at hand, the treasure house of inspiration and knowledge. Mr. Erskine's paper was discussed by S. H. Baker of James Gamble Rogers, Inc., Architects. He advised against postponing study of furniture until the building is built, which is too frequently the case. The furniture should be planned along with the rooms. Continuing the discussion, H. R. Sampson of the Library Bureau, Chicago, said that he was of the opinion that if the buyer actually intends to have the best possible equipment and if the bidder intends to give full value and quality construction and knows how to carry out such intention, elaborate specifications for furniture and equipment are not necessary. Exhibit cases were discussed by A. B. Russell, president of the A. N. Russell & Sons Co., who has had much experience in designing and manufacturing them. Some recent developments in library stack planning were given by Angus S. Macdonald of Snead and Co. He expressed the opinion that during the last three years there have been more developments than in the previous thirty years, and that there were more yet to come. He characterized the book stack tower as one of the outstanding developments from a visual standpoint. He showed several slides of the Sterling Memorial stack tower, with detail views,

reinforcing his points by additional views of the stacks of Universities of Illinois and Rochester, a sketch plan of a possible fifty tier stack, a moving picture of the book conveyor at the University of Rochester, and stereopticon views of conveyors at the University of North Carolina, Yale, New York Public Library and the Toronto Public Library.

He also touched on the question of ventilation of book stacks and showed a plan of the new law library at Cornell University. "Books deteriorate rapidly when exposed to artificial heat that is not accompanied by the proper amount of humidity," said Mr. Macdonald. "For instance if the winter air is taken into a building and heated up to seventy degrees, the humidity is liable to drop down to seven or eight per cent, depending on its condition when it started, and any place below thirty per cent it becomes too dry, and when too dry the book deteriorates rapidly when used. The paper and glue are brittle. I believe the fact that books wear out rapidly and binding bills are high is largely due to that fact. We have exposed them to desiccation of steam heat without humidity, and we are paying dearly for it. Abroad the books are much older than ours, but they are in much better condition, probably because they haven't been exposed to steam heat."

Wednesday evening, December 30th, eighty-five librarians and their friends dined at the Lakeside Press, R. R. Donnelley & Sons Co., Chicago. After dinner, the group met in the Memorial Library on the eighth floor of the Press, and listened to a very timely illustrated talk by Mr. A. S. Macdonald on The Vatican Library. Having recently installed the Snead stacks in the Vatican after an intensive study of the building and numerous conferences with the Pope and Monsignor Tisserant, Mr. Macdonald was able to give accurate information as to the condition of the various parts of the building occupied by the library and to explain the collapse of the roof over the Sistine Library. By means of stereopticon pictures and diagrams, Mr. Macdonald was able to help his audience understand the reasons for the disaster better than they could from the published newspaper accounts.

League of Library Commissions

WITH THE successful completion of the library demonstration in Louisiana, the League

of Library Commissions, at the meeting in Chicago, December 29th, took the first step toward another similar project by the adoption of a resolution that "whereas the Louisiana library experiment sponsored by the League of Library Commissions has now rendered its final report, and whereas the League of Library Commissions feels that the results indicated on this report prove the effectiveness of such demonstrations, be it resolved that the League investigate the need and possibilities of such future projects and that a committee be appointed to this end."

Sixteen state agencies were represented at the meeting at which Mrs. Frank Sheehan, chairman of Library Extension, General Federation of Women's Clubs was an honored guest. Mrs. Sheehan pledged the cooperation of her organization and its interest and influence.

Groups of young people such as the 4H Clubs, Boy and Girl Scouts, Future Farmers of America, etc., offer a wide field for work, according to Miss Beal of North Carolina, who spoke on "Intensive Work with Young People." At the 4H summer conference, classes in good reading were extremely popular with such subjects as the history of book-making, the history and growth of libraries, the choice of books and magazines among the topics discussed. The problem of securing books to read led naturally to a discussion of the advantages of the county library with reports from girls living in counties with this form of library service. "Many groups," says Miss Beal, "are searching for an objective, many are desirous to improve their club programs, many feel the need of books to read; they will all work for county libraries if rightly directed. The boys and girls who are in their teens to-day, to-morrow will be voters, and they will be influencing public opinion. They are eager today to know about libraries and to have plenty of books to read. That boy in the sixth grade who doesn't like to read may in a few years be a county commissioner. Youth and enthusiasm offer us an opportunity."

ESSAE CULVER, *President.*

High Points of New Orleans Program

THE GENERAL THEME for the New Orleans conference will be "Libraries in a Changing World." There will be four general sessions (Monday evening, Tuesday morning, Tuesday evening, and Saturday afternoon) with sev-

eral outstanding speakers among which are Edwin R. Embree, president of the Julius Rosenwald Fund, whose topic will be "Cultural Problems and Prospects in the South," and Frank P. Graham, President, University of North Carolina, on "The Public Library in American Civilization—New Ideas in Education."

The tentative program announces one session of the Agricultural Libraries Section; two sessions of the Bibliographical Society of America; one open session and one closed session of the Board of Education for Librarianship; one session of the Business Libraries Section covering the topic "The Economics Problems of a Changing World," to be discussed from the point of view of the public library; one general session and two round tables for the Catalog Section, one round table for small libraries and one for large libraries; one general session and three round tables for the College and Reference Section with Dr. Shelton Phelps of the graduate School of George Peabody College for Teachers, Nashville, Tenn., as speaker at the general session; two joint sessions of the County Libraries Section with the League of Library Commissions and Trustees Section and one short separate business meeting; two sessions of the Lending Section; four or five sessions of the National Association of State Librarians and a banquet; two sessions of the Periodicals Section covering the topics "Periodicals in the New World," and "The Use of Business Magazines in Libraries"; one session of the Professional Training Section; one general session of the School Libraries Section, one business session, a joint meeting with the Section for Library Work with Children, and four round table meetings covering the general topic of "The Library in the New School"; one general session, one business meeting, a joint meeting with the School Libraries Section, and a marionette play for the Section for Library Work with Children—Count René d'Harnoncourt will speak at the general session; and one session of the Training Class Section.

Round Table meetings of the following groups will be held: Adult Education, a luncheon meeting, group meetings, and one general session; Art Reference, a luncheon and one general session covering the topic—Relations with Special Groups in the Community and the Development of Special Collections; Reference Librarians, round table for librarians and staff members of college and university libraries; Hospital Libraries, one session covering the topic "Salvaging the

(Turn to page 202, please)

School Library News

Library Instruction

By Radio

INSTRUCTION in any subject by radio is a thing about which few people know a great deal. It is a subject over which there is much controversy, much misunderstanding, and actually little knowledge, and in which I myself have had only a very little experience.

Nathan Hale Junior High School has been made the test school for radio instruction among the junior high schools of Cleveland. There, two of the teachers have been working almost full time for a year and a half to prepare social studies lessons for the radio, but it is only since late last spring, that some other departments, among them the Library, were asked to join in the movement. Plans were made to prepare six lessons on "The Use of the Library." For the 7th grade:—"The Parts of a Book," "The Encyclopedia," "Classification of Books on the Shelves" and "The Catalog," and for the 9th grade:—"Reader's Guide" and "Special Reference Books." If it seems to you, as it did, when mentioned to me, that instruction by radio is simply a glorified extemporaneous talk—may I tell you that you are mistaken, just as I was? A good radio lesson appears to be that, in its effect—but to achieve it, even in a mild form, requires hours of preparation, research, and thought. You know, the objective of radio lessons, is to give to the children something which they would not find out for themselves—but to "sugar-coat" it, in order that they will listen, and—we hope—learn! Another objective is to arouse in them an interest in the subject and possibly a desire to find out more about it. The radio lesson may be a simplified lecture—it may be one dramatic incident chosen to make the point clearer—it may be a dialogue or a debate; in fact no standard technique has yet been established. In order to hold the attention of the children—we must prepare, besides the talk of probably fifteen minutes—a list of objectives, and an explanation to the teacher of what will be expected of her during the lesson. If there are words to be written on the board—she must know about them. If there are questions for the children to answer, she should be informed. And then, usually, a worksheet must be prepared for the child. It may be work for him to do at some time during the lesson—it may be diagrams or explanations of statements made by the radio

teacher—but it must be something to bring back his attention, if it wanders—and to make the lesson clearer and more interesting to him.

A lesson I gave last spring on "The Story of Books"—is to be an extra lesson in the series on the library—a sort of introduction to the subject. This told in story form about the evolution of books and writing—from the days of the story-teller in the tribe down to the modern books of today. Naturally it had to be made simple, interesting, short enough to be told in fifteen minutes, and with many little tricks interspersed, for recapturing wandering attention. With this lesson, I used, as a worksheet, a mimeographed page of pictures of the various types of books which were mentioned in the talk, including picture-writing, clay tablets, papyrus rolls, parchment rolls, the Roman book with three leaves, and the manuscript book. While describing these different types, I asked the children to find them on the worksheet they had been given. And after the lesson each pupil was given a book mark, suggesting some books to tie up with the lesson such as the Library has prepared for the radio lessons in social studies.

This lesson on books was given to the 7B English classes, and the teachers afterwards asked their classes to write out what they had learned. It was interesting and at the same time gratifying to see the amount of information that they had gleaned from the short talk. I am quite certain that because of their interest in the radio, they learned more than I could possibly have given them in talking to them directly for forty-five minutes.

In the contact I have had with radio instruction, there seems to be evidence that the concentration and interest of the pupils are greatly increased. The novelty of the radio does not seem to wear off and an alertness has been developed which undoubtedly makes pupils much more responsive.

MARY T. HUGENTUGLER,

Librarian,

*Nathan Hale Junior High School,
Cleveland, Ohio*

MARTINUS NIJHOFF

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Current Library Literature

ADULT EDUCATION. See LIBRARY AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE; READERS' ADVISERS.

A.L.A. SUBJECT HEADINGS. See SUBJECT HEADINGS.

BILLINGS, JOHN SHAW, 1838-1913

Lydenberg, H. M. John Shaw Billings, 1838-1913. *Bull. of Bibl.* 14: 117-120. 1931.

Mr. Lydenberg, assistant director of the New York Public Library, was associated with Dr. Billings for several years at that library, which he reorganized following the consolidation of the Astor, Lenox and Tilden foundations in 1895 and of which he was "in a very real sense the creator." "As kindly and gentle as a woman, as stern and inflexible as a judge, far-sighted, practical as a toolmaker, imaginative enough to glimpse the possibilities of new institutions of research, a lover of the past with a face closely addressed to the new. You surely will go far before you find his like or his equal."

BLIND. See LIBRARY WORK WITH THE BLIND.

BOOK RARITIES

Wead, Eunice. Rare books and the public library. *Mich. Lib. Bull.* 22: 221-225. 1931.

Paper read at a meeting of the Michigan Library Association, Battle Creek, Oct. 7-9, 1931. Discusses the four points of a rare book: antiquity, unicity, scarcity, and beauty; lists guides to rare books and first editions; and makes suggestions as to collecting local history.

See also BOSTON (MASS.) PUBLIC LIBRARY; COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

BOOK BUYING

Cheney, O. H. *Economic Survey of the Book Industry 1930-1931*. Final Report by O. H. Cheney, Director. New York: National Association of Book Publishers, 1931. cl. 337p. \$10.

Chapter IX, p. 311-320, "The Library as Market." The library market represents an annual volume of \$13,886,280 expended on books alone. The Survey finds that library buying overemphasizes popular fiction, that discounts have been "more generous than reasonable," and should not be increased, and that the majority of libraries have developed no effective method for studying reading habits and interests, and so have not given attention and service to such groups as industrial workers and business men.

BOOKS AND READING

Waples, Douglas. The relation of subject interests to actual reading. tables. *Lib. Quar.* 2: 42-70. 1932.

Dr. Waples of the Graduate Library School, University of Chicago, is co-author of *What People Want to Read About*. Findings from data furnished by factory workers and college students as to their preferences in subjects of reading matter and their actual amount of reading on these topics are presented in eight tables. "What every librarian does not know, and what has probably not been demonstrated before in equally objective terms, is that so small a proportion of the 'readable' printed matter available to the American citizen is concerned with the particular questions upon which he most wants to read. It is altogether probable that this condition applies to the half of the total adult population that has been estimated to read little but newspapers. If so, the publisher, librarian, book dealer, or teacher who brings interesting and trustworthy reading on the desired subjects within easy reach of the multitude will deserve well of his country."

BOSTON (MASS.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

Haraszti, Zoltán. Rare and valuable books. facsim. *More Books.* 6: 377-390. 1931.

A running commentary on recently acquired books on typography, fine arts, biography, and leaves from incunabula.

XVth-century books in the library. facsim. *More Books.* 6: 425-435. 1931.

Eighth instalment of the descriptive list of incunabula in the library. To be continued.

Intended to index with brief annotation, or excerpts when desirable, articles in library periodicals, books on libraries and library economy and other material of interest to the profession. The subject headings follow those in Cannons' *Bibliography of Library Economy*, to which this department makes a continuing supplement. Readers are requested to note and supply omissions and make suggestions as to the development of this department.

BOYS' READING

McPherson, O. H. Boy's (sic) recreational reading. *Booklist.* 28: 132-134. 1931.

By the librarian of the Lawrenceville School, Lawrenceville, N. J. "A list of key books adapted to secondary school boys varying in age, taste, temperament, and mentality, and useful in meeting demands for voluntary reading, and lending itself readily to progressive arrangement for the improving of reading tastes."

CATALOGING

Gordon, E. L. Cataloging League of Nations publications. *LIB. JOUR.* 57: 21-22. 1932.

Mrs. Gordon is classifier at the University of Pennsylvania Library. "In re-classifying the collection, 341.11, instead of 341.15 was used for the upper number. For the lower number, the official number of the document was used. This lower number is based entirely on Mr. Walton's scheme, which he outlined at the Eastern College Librarians' conference." (See p. 198).

CENSORSHIP, LIBRARY.

Sayers, W. C. B. This fiction question. *Lib. World.* 34: 131-133. 1931.

"There is a police censorship of immoral (if it be immoral) literature, although it is rarely and not always wisely exercised, and the librarian must from the moral view accept what it allows to pass, but it is well to restrict the access of adolescents to literature which gives offense to those who are responsible for them, their parents."

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Around the globe in children's books. Minneapolis (Minn.) Public Library. *Community Bookshelf.* 10: 7-16. 1931.

Alphabetically arranged from Africa to Wales. "Annotations have been quoted from various sources."

Oregon State Library. *Some Children's Books Costing a Dollar or Less*. Salem, 1931. 25 min. p.

Easy books, fairy tales, myths, health, science, animals, plays, biography, history, Indians, history, travel, etc. No annotations.

CHILDREN'S READING

Coxe, W. W. Scientific literature on the reading interests of school children. *LIB. JOUR.* 57: 9-15. 1932.

Survey of studies of children's reading made in the past ten years, by the director of the Educational Research Division, New York State Education Department. "Certain investigations have shown very conclusively that the child is interested in those reading selections which are preferred by the teacher and about which the teacher is enthusiastic. . . . To improve the taste in reading is of very great importance. It can be done, but it cannot be done all at once. That is, you must take the child gradually from where his present reading interest is to what it should be." The physical makeup of books which appeal to children is taken up in detail.

Westervelt, Gretchen. Books we like. illus. *LIB. JOUR.* 56: 1037-1040. 1931.

By the librarian of the School of Practice Library, State Normal School, Potsdam, N. Y. "The elementary library with its flexible program brings all children into regular contact with an environment of carefully selected books. Six years of this results in a sense of at-homeness in any library, school or public; in a familiarity with the fact that there are many, many kinds of books and that several kinds are likely to be interesting. The child who has this freedom to explore usually comes to use many types of books and is somewhat less apt in the teens to read in a limited field; a field which so often is fiction only."

COLLEGE LIBRARIES

Byrnes, H. W. Student centered college library. *Libraries.* 36: 107-110. 1931.

By the librarian of the State Teachers College, Mayville, N. D. "When all agencies of the college combine to give guidance to the student in the opportunity to seek for himself, to unearth the values within the covers of books, to find pleasure, to also be disturbed by what he reads, to make decisions, and reverse them, to find that he can interpret for himself that which has been put in print, and so awaken within him the individual which is himself, then will our college libraries be student centered. And that the librarian will have a large part in the program is highly probable!"

Shaw, C. B., ed. *A List of Books for College Libraries*. Approximately 14,000 Titles Selected on the Recommendation of 200 College Teachers, Librarians and Other Advisers. Prepared by Charles B. Shaw for the Carnegie Corporation of New York Advisory Group on College Libraries, William Warner Bishop, Chairman. Second Preliminary Edition. Chicago: American Library Association, 1931. cl. 810p. \$3.50.

The list does not pretend to be complete or exhaustive in any division of any of the subjects, which run alphabetically from Astronomy to Zoology. The needs of the graduate student and the research worker were ruled out at the start. It definitely tries to include only those books, states the editor, which the undergraduate student could reasonably be expected to use in the pursuit of his work in courses commonly offered in the various liberal-arts colleges and those additional books to which students would go for their recreational and general reading. Publishers, prices, editions and Library of Congress card numbers are included.

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY, NEW YORK, N. Y.

Haupt, Hellmut Lehmann—. *Five Centuries of Book Design; a Survey of Styles in the Columbia Library*. Reprinted from the *Columbia Univ. Quar.*, June, 1931. pap. 23p. facsimis.

Dr. Lehmann-Haupt has been Instructor in Book Production in the School of Library Service since February 1930, and Curator of the Department since September 1930. "The present article does not pretend to be an account of the rare and valuable items in the Columbia University Library. Professor Simkhovitch's article 'Monumenta and Rariora' in this *Quarterly*, March, 1911, XIII, 173-182, can still be recommended as a good introduction to the treasures of the library. The present article may be taken merely as a presentation of viewpoints, showing now books can be used to illustrate the leading tendencies to which they owe their physical appearance."

COMMISSIONS, LIBRARY. See LIBRARY COMMISSIONS.

COUNTY LIBRARIES

Davies, E. S. The future of county libraries. *Lib. Assn. Record*. 3rd ser. 1:397-407. 1931.

Paper read at the Library Association's annual conference, 1931, by the director of education, Kent County (England) Council. "The transference of power from smaller local bodies to a central authority is likely to be resisted at first and to cause a certain amount of friction. Such transference, however, appears to be inevitable, and to be, generally, in the interests of good government. The development of the Library system in this country seems destined to follow the same course. . . . Whatever figure of population be fixed as the necessary minimum for the exercise of County Borough powers, it seems probable that, ultimately, the education services, including that of Public Libraries, will be administered by the Counties and by the County Boroughs. For certain purposes, however, the area of the County and of the County Borough is itself too small."

DEPRESSION. See LIBRARY SERVICE.

DE KALB, ILL. See HAISH MEMORIAL LIBRARY.

HAISH MEMORIAL LIBRARY, DE KALB, ILL.

Safford, W. R. The newest library: the Haish Memorial Library, De Kalb, Ill. illus. plan. *Libraries*. 36: 165-167. 1931.

"Startling as the innovation seems we must admit that the substitution of new forms in place of those somewhat boring 'orders' with which architecture has been so indicted is agreeably refreshing. The building is beautiful since it exemplifies a simple use of plain wall surfaces, color, texture, and that undefinable quality—proportion. There is no unnecessary 'embroidery,' and it looks like a library. One could not by any chance mistake it for a bank, a school, or a church."

HIGH SCHOOL LIBRARIES

Johnson, B. L. Solutions for high-school library problems. illus. *School Life*. 17: 87-88. 1932.

"This is the fifth of a series of articles written for *School Life* giving preliminary findings of the important National Survey of Secondary Education. This brief article does not aim to report any major portion of the large-scale investigation of secondary school libraries. It reports rather certain high lights of library service which are only a single, although an important, phase of the findings. The complete report will be published during 1932 as a monograph—one of a series based on the investigations of the survey." Editor's note.

HOOVER WAR LIBRARY. See STANFORD UNIVERSITY, HOOVER WAR LIBRARY.

HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

Pugsley, W. C. Historical literature in the public library. *Lib. Assistant*. 24: 235-241. 1931.

By the librarian of the Dagenham (England) Public Libraries. "Papers," except in rare instances, should be scattered about the library system rather than be duplicated. Of the private lives, the works of Maurois and such able writers should be chosen on their literary merits, but much of this description often emanates from the remainder market—let it remain there. Attention must also be given to different aspects and prejudices of authors, although present history writing is on the whole free of antagonists. I might mention that if a Hilaire Belloc is chosen, Professor Coulton is essential. Professor Pollard must be represented as a corrective for Froude." Titles of books which should be in all branches and at the central library, and books to be divided between the home reading departments, are listed.

HOSPITAL LIBRARIES

Du Bois, Isabel. Books as solace for the sick. illus. *Hygeia*. 12: 55-58. 1932.

"In general, the patient with a chronic disorder is likely to be depressed, especially if this is not his first stay in a hospital; he needs something to arouse new interests. The day before an operation any patient is likely to be nervous; he needs quieting and outside interests. After the operation he may have an optimistic view of himself as well as the world at large; then he needs restraint and something to provide excitement to still his own. At the wheel chair stage he feels he is a well man craving action and not books. Typhoid convalescents are often lazy-minded and need stimulation. The person with heart disease needs soothing relaxation. Each disease and each patient produce a mental state that the librarian must consider." Specific titles for various types of patients are suggested, as well as those of books at all times undesirable in hospital libraries.

INSTRUCTION IN USE OF LIBRARY

Headicar, B. M. *Aids to Research: How to Use a Library*. With Select Bibliographies of Reference Books, Bibliographical Guides and Specialist Directories by C. Fuller. London: London School of Economics, 1931. 16p. 6d.

The Librarian and Assistant Librarian of the London School of Economics reprint from that library's *Bulletin* a valuable collection of first-aid notes for the users of libraries, catalogues and books of reference, prefaced by good advice on the necessity of exact references and bibliographical background to writing. Mr. Fuller's list of reference books, intended for use in the library of the School, will be of wider use, notably for the section of specialist dictionaries." *Lib. Assn. Record*. 3rd ser. 1:434. 1931.

KENTUCKY, UNIVERSITY OF. LIBRARY.

[King, Margaret]. *The University Library, University of Kentucky*. Dedicated October 23, 1931. pap. [16]p. illus. por. plans.

The style of architecture is the Georgian Colonial. A museum and periodical room occupy the first floor, the circulation room, reference room and browsing room are on the second floor, and the third and fourth floors are planned for the use of the classes in library science and graduate students respectively. The building was erected at a cost of \$450,000 and contains a book collection of 113,000 volumes.

LEATHER, DETERIORATION OF.

Frey, R. W., and I. D. Clarke. *The Decay of Bookbinding Leathers*. *Journal of the American Leather Chemists Association*. illus. graphs. 26: 461-482. 1931.

Reprints can be obtained. Presents results of experiments with ten bookbinding leathers. "It is believed the data show quite convincingly that an important and basic cause, at least for the relatively rapid rotting of leather bindings, is absorbed from the air by the leather of actual and potential sulphuric acid."

LIBRARIANS

Wyer, J. I. Unemployment among librarians. *LIB. JOUR.* 57: 111-113. 1932. Also in *A. L. A. Bull.* 26: 22-26. 1932.

By the chairman of the A. L. A. Board of Education for Librarianship. An inquiry directed to library schools, the Personnel Division of the A. L. A., two teachers' agencies, and 72 of the 76 public libraries in New York cities of more than 10,000 population resulted in the encouraging

conclusion that second-year graduates are still easily placed. 50 per cent of students unemployed before 1929 are placement problems, and that fewer graduates of the class of 1931 would be unemployed if the students had "realized the difficulties connected with placement this year and had been willing to waive preferences early last spring and accept fairly satisfactory positions that were offered them."

LIBRARIES

CANADA

Canada Department of Trade and Commerce. Dominion Bureau of Statistics. Library. *Statistical Survey of Canadian Libraries 1929-30*. Ottawa: Pub. by authority of the Hon. H. H. Stevens, M.P., Minister of Trade and Commerce, 1931. 28 mim. p.

Statistics for 1110 libraries: 640 free public and association libraries, 133 university, college and normal school libraries, 59 government libraries (Dominion and Provincial), and 219 other libraries, including the parish libraries of Quebec, Y.M.C.A. and Y.W.C.A. libraries, etc.

LIBRARY AND VOCATIONAL GUIDANCE

Eastman, L. A. The part of the city library in the vocational guidance of adults. *A. L. A. Bull.* 26: 10-16. 1932.

Instances of practical help rendered by the Cleveland (Ohio) Public Library, of which Miss Eastman is librarian, to those who come to the library for vocational information or aid. The card indexes used in this work cover the best material in the library, analyses of less usual courses offered by some four hundred colleges and special schools, and 395 local agencies offering opportunities for adult education.

LIBRARY COMMISSIONS

Sanders, Christine. Problems faced by a young commission. *LIB. JOUR.* 57: 18-20. 1932.

By the librarian, Arkansas Free Library Service Bureau, Little Rock, Ark. Discusses the problems faced and the approach to the field made by recently established state commissions. The Arkansas Bureau tries to give a personal touch to its publicity and correspondence.

LIBRARY ORGANIZATION

How to Start a Public Library. Chicago: Lib. Extension Bd., Amer. Lib. Assn., 1931. 9 mim. p. Suggestions for a library campaign, from the first assembling of information through securing the formal resolution of establishment and the appointment of trustees and librarian to the actual opening. "Tools and aids," p. 9.

LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS

Associate Members Bulletin is reprinted from *Special Libraries* and sent monthly to associate members of the S.L.A. who do not receive regularly the larger periodical. The first number, Jan. 1932, has four pages.

Library Briefs, a semi-monthly bulletin published by the Jacksonville (Fla.) Public Library, began its first volume Jan. 15, 1932. (pap. 4p.).

LIBRARY SCHOOLS

Drury, G. G. Placement by library schools. *LIB. JOUR.* 57: 15-18. 1932.

Paper read at the joint meeting of the Professional Training Section and the Association of American Library Schools, New Haven, June 1931. "I believe we are not really over-supplied with professionally trained people but we are getting ahead of the conscious demand in some sections, and, therefore, should slow up production, at the same time watching standards. I believe Library Schools should make every effort to complete their job by placing their graduates permanently and satisfactorily, and that they are better fitted to do this than any other body because they have first hand records. What they need is to make themselves known."

See also LIBRARIANS.

LIBRARY SERVICE

Goodrich, F. L. D. Effects of the economic depression on library service. *LIB. JOUR.* 56: 1025-1028. 1931.

Paper presented by the librarian of the College of the City of New York before the meeting of Eastern College Librarians, Columbia University, Nov. 28, 1931. "I personally feel that we in the college field will have our lean years after those in many other fields are beginning to grow fat again. The clamor against taxes of all kinds has at least prevented any increases for most tax-supported institutions and has caused a decided reduction

in the allowances for others. . . . This period of economic depression has necessitated, or is likely to necessitate, an adjustment of budgetary items that must always be kept in balance and in reasonable proportions. A cut in income is not likely to last for only one year. One may as well pull in his belt, sharpen his pencil, and formulate a five-year plan."

"Serving Readers in a Time of Depression," by Frances C. Sayers, and "The Demands of the Times," by Matthew S. Dudgeon, in the *A. L. A. Bulletin* for January 1932, discuss methods which the library may use in combatting the present economic depression. (26: 17-20; 6-9. 1932).

LIBRARY WORK WITH THE BLIND

Haycraft, Howard. The new status of library work with the blind. *illus. Wilson Bull.* 6: 410-415. 1932.

Plans of the administrators of the annual fund of \$100,000 made possible by the passage of the Pratt-Smoot Bill on February 28, 1931, which provides for the manufacture and purchase of specially selected braille books for the adult blind. At least one fiction and one non-fiction title will be issued each month, to begin with. The *Braille Book Review*, which began publication in January 1932, is distributed free to blind readers throughout the world upon payment of an annual enrollment fee of fifty cents to cover mailing charges.

LIBRARY TRUSTEES

Marcus, W. E., jr. Trustee personnel. Montclair (N. J.) Public Library. *A Trustees' Organ*. 2: [1]. 1932.

"If Library Trustees will invariably realize that they are a directing body standing between the stockholders (the Town Taxpayers) and the operating staff (The Librarian and Department Heads), they will never individually nor collectively attempt to assert themselves in matters which are properly not their immediate prerogative. The duties of the librarian can be summed up in one statement—to operate the library within the budget allotted, along the lines of the best modern library practice, with due consideration to the public and the staff, and in accordance with the principles and regulations set up by the Trustees of the library. The librarian is the executive, the Trustees the directors of policy. The Trustees budget and the librarian spends."

LIBRARY WORK WITH CHILDREN

Potter, M. F. Decorative material for the library. *Wilson Bull.* 6: 407-409. 1932.

Miss Potter, who is head of the children's department, Albany (N. Y.) Public Schools, lists sources from which posters, exhibits, reproductions of paintings, and maps may be obtained to decorate the children's room.

NEW YORK (N. Y.) PUBLIC LIBRARY

The *Bull. of the N. Y. P. L.* for December 1931 has articles on "Books from the Library of Rear-Admiral Franklin Hanford, U. S. N.," who collected books and pamphlets on Americana and the history and literature of the sea, by W. J. Burke (35: 841-846. por.); and on "Association Books from the Library of William Harris Arnold," forming the nucleus of a new collection in the library—the shelf of forgeries—, by Gerald D. McDonald (35: 847-851. 1931).

PAMPHLETS

Clawson, C. R. The pamphlet collection. *illus. Wilson Bull.* 6: 405-408. 1932.

Mr. Clawson is librarian of Alfred University Library, Alfred, N. Y., which has a pamphlet room in which about 10,000 pamphlets are assigned to something like 500 pamphlet boxes. A subject file gives quick access to the collection.

PHILIPPINES, UNIVERSITY OF. LIBRARY.

The inauguration of the new library of the University of the Philippines at Manila on March 17, 1931, was followed next month by the revival of *The Library Mirror*, official organ of the Library Club of the University. The first number of the second volume (quarterly, \$1 a year) is given up to addresses at the inauguration, articles on Filipino public libraries, library training in the Normal School, news and book notes, and an article of "Mary Polk: Library Pioneer," by Cirilo B. Perez. Miss Polk (1864-1924), a graduate of the University of Indiana, was appointed librarian of the Bureau of Government Laboratories (now Bureau of Science) and developed it into a notable collection of 100,000 bound and unbound volumes. She also organized and developed the library courses in the University of the Philippines.

POLK, MARY, 1864-1924. See PHILIPPINES, UNIVERSITY OF.

RARE BOOKS. See BOOK RARITIES.

Small Libraries

Cataloging Problems In the Small Library

IN SPEAKING of the cataloging problems in the small library, let us assume that the library whereof we speak has no separate cataloging department and no trained cataloger. Where there are no technically trained assistants, the librarian is usually the cataloger, and she is always the reviser. Such a situation, if the library is at all alive, means that the cataloging, at best, is done under decided handicaps.

The chief problem encountered in the cataloging of the small library is constant interruption despite careful planning. Administrative duties naturally demand a definite chunk of each busy day. Desk and reference work are like dish-washing, ever to be done again. Book selection and order work must go on, for in this day of intensive advertising, it is necessary to order books weekly instead of monthly. Conferences and committee meetings, as well as visits from borrowers seeking advice take their share of the hours.

The librarian of the little library is like the small town banker. She must be accessible and friendly. She must be ready to drop her work at a moment's notice to discuss with Mr. Brown of Columbia the outlook for a good crop, when he comes for a book on poultry culling. She must help Mrs. White choose the very best book upon which to raise her new baby, or she must aid the owner of the art store down the street in deciphering and interpreting the signatures and titles of his latest color etchings.

Then, last, but not least, we have always with us the subscription book agents; good, bad and indifferent. Those belonging to the latter classifications often consume an unholy amount of time, perhaps because their sales talks have been learned by heart, and they do not know how to stop before they have finished. Praise be to the *Subscription Book Bulletin*, which frequently ends the argument with its curt italics *Not recommended*.

Now then, is there a solution to the cataloging problem in the small library. There probably will be none until such a time as the library is prosperous enough to afford a trained staff. We can, however, partially solve our problems by using time-savers, some of which would not be countenanced by those who specialize in cataloging. It is for the

librarian to decide whether it is better to greatly simplify her cataloging, or whether it is better to catalog as many books as one can strictly according to Hoyle, leaving the rest to the slim chance of more time in the near future. Most librarians who are dependent upon part-time and student assistants will feel that the simplified cataloging is the best choice.

Perhaps the most obvious short-cut in cataloging is the use of Library of Congress cards. These cards are so commonly used that I need hold no brief for them. Another way of saving time in assigning subject headings and also in classifying is to copy the headings and numbers suggested in our book selection aids onto the order card. This should be done when the order card is made out. Then, in cases where Library of Congress cards are unavailable the order cards yields the information which so often helps the busy librarian in making her decisions. Some libraries, in cataloging books for which there are no Library of Congress cards, give brief information only on all cards except the main card, thus saving not a little time in typing.

There is a fourth expedient, against which all true catalogers will protest, and it should only be resorted to when time will not permit full cataloging. Time may be saved by not analyzing those books which have already been analyzed by some indexing service. It is absolutely necessary that the small library have ready access to information which lies buried in, let us say, collective biography or in art books. Where a large library will have an entire book devoted to a subject, the small library may be dependent upon a chapter here and there. It is agreed that it is wise and well to analyze when and where you can, but not at the cost of holding up other books which are waiting to be cataloged. If such indices as *Firkins' Index to Plays* and *Index to Short Stories*; *Logasa's Historical Fiction*; *Logasa and Ver Nooy's Index to One Act Plays*; *Hazeltine's Anniversaries and Holidays*; *Alice Hazeltine's Plays for Children*; and *The Standard Catalog Series* are kept within easy reach of the loan desk, those books which are indexed therein may safely be analyzed at a later time. As soon as there is time to go back and analyze, by all means let us do so. In the meantime, why not make use of these valuable tools which come to us ready-made.

DOROTHEA HEINS,

Aberdeen, S. D., Public Library.

Children's Librarians' Notebook

VAGABOND'S WARD. By Marjorie Provost. *Harper*. \$2.

This is a realistic picture of Paris during the middle of the fifteenth century when misery stalked the streets and life was cheap. Kate, a ragged little pickpocket, whose delicate beauty and courageous spirit contradict her circumstances, is rescued one day from the police by the poet François Villon who thereafter calls her his ward and finally helps her to a real home. The picture of Villon who was a rogue as well as a great poet is biographically correct. The author has a real interest in her subject and knows how to recreate a period. The book is written for children from 10 to 14 years of age and for that reason will probably not inspire further study of Villon's life or of his art. Girls especially will like.—H. N.

AWAY TO SEA. By Stephen W. Meader. *Harcourt*. \$2.50.

A swiftly moving tale of the adventures of Jim Slater, a young New Englander of seventeen years, who runs away from home to become a sailor. Unknowingly he signs up as a cabin boy on a slave ship bound for Africa. After many weeks when the slaver is nearing the mouth of the Mississippi, the lad escapes from the motley crew. Later, after a narrow escape from pirates, he meets with a naturalist in the swamps of Louisiana who guides him back to civilization. The story makes exciting reading for the young person from twelve to sixteen years.—E. B.

SOMETIMES JENNY WREN. By A. C. Darby. *Stokes*. \$2.

Jeanette, sometimes her father's "Jenny Wren," is a lively pioneer girl of Missouri in the forties. Many and varied are her experiences which seem to get her into all sorts of scrapes, even though she tries hard to avoid them. She is overjoyed when her father brings home a playmate to take the place of her banished make-believe sister and the book fairly bubbles with the happy companionship of these two friends. She is thrilled when she has an unexpected trip in the Mississippi River boat with the great Audubon, and later visits his home in New York. Enroute by stage coach she meets George Bingham, the painter. This is a book that all girls from eight to twelve will enjoy.—M.W.

These books are actually reviewed by different children's librarians in the field. If you do not agree with the review of a book, send in your own review and we will print it.

TWO PENNILESS PRINCESSES. By Charlotte M. Yonge. *Macmillan*. \$1.75.

An attractive edition of an old story. The historical characters and background give the narrative a robust quality which transcends the sometimes rather stilted style and annoying dialect. The author's other books do not seem to attract a wide popularity among girls of today; however, the title and inviting appearance of this edition may make it an exception.—L. H.

MOSTLY MARY. By Gwynedd Rae. *Morrow*. \$1.

A very slight story which concerns itself with a family of bears living in the famous bear pit of Berne, Switzerland. Mary, young and mischievous and roly-poly, is the chief character in the book. Instead of giving an actual picture of the bears as they live, which would have been most interesting, the author has endowed them with human thoughts, feelings and actions which is most disconcerting and confusing to the young reader. Not necessary for the library collection.—C. N.

TERRIBLE NUISANCE. By Peggy Bacon. *Harcourt*. \$2.50.

Juliana, nine, Timothy, seven, and Benjy, four, are three normal children who live with their mother and sculptor father in a small village. Juliana spends one day working to earn money to buy her father a birthday present, Timothy conceives of a wonderful plan to go to the County Fair which almost ends in disaster, and there is an all day picnic in the woods hunting the fringed gentian. The black and white illustrations by the author will attract the young reader and make him want to read the story that goes with them.—M.W.

DOROTHY STANHOPE-VIRGINIAN. By Hawthorne Daniel. *Coward*. \$2.

A story of mystery and excitement any boy or girl will read eagerly. A girl is kidnapped in England, sent to the American colonies and sold as a slave. Fortunately she falls into the hands of kind people who have a daughter just her age. The two girls and a boy neighbor have much fun and no little danger when they bring about the capture of some men who are violating the piracy laws of the colonies. Story is written in a straightforward, simple manner which at once captures the attention and holds it to the very end.—N. K. P.

AMNON: A LAD OF PALESTINE. By Marian King. Houghton. \$1.75.

A present-day story of a little Jewish boy in Judea. Amnon and his pet goat, Aleez, have pleasant outings with Ben-Ami, the shepherd, who takes them to visit King David's cave and to Jerusalem where they see the market, the Wailing Wall and the Mosque of Omar. The story concludes with the celebration of the Feast of Purim. There are colored plates and black and white drawings by Elizabeth Enright. A pleasant but undistinguished story for young children.—F. L. A.

CHICKEN TOWN. By Grace B. Gawthorpe. (Illus. by Edna Potter). Stokes. \$1.

Through ordinary and extraordinary experiences in the daily life of little Jerry, the bantam rooster, the reader is given an entertaining and authentic view of the life in a chicken yard. Both the reader and Jerry have a big surprise in store, except for the keen observer who may have a suspicion of the truth from the beginning of Jerry's existence. The story should prove popular with boys and girls of nine and ten years, who have known chickens always, or who know them only through the printed page.—W. W.

WISH IN THE DARK. By Lenora M. Weber. Little. \$2.

Three homeless young people, cowboys, a cattle stampede, and several mysteries which are satisfactorily and simply explained at the last of the book, make up this story of ranch life in Colorado. The situations and incidents are somewhat artificial, but there is a wholesomeness about the characters that is refreshing and will please young readers.—L. H.

DUTCH CHEESE. By Walter De La Mare. Knopf. \$3.

Two delightful fairy tales, which appeared formerly in the author's *Broomsticks*, are given out in a new dress. The first story, "The Dutch Cheese," tells of the mischievous pranks which the fairies played upon Farmer John, who hated and feared them, and how his lovely sister brought about a compromise. The second story, "The Lovely Myfanwy," is a tale of the beautiful Myfanwy and her absolute captivity in her father's castle, from which she finally escapes with the aid of the sorcery of a young prince. Dorothy Lathrop has illustrated the book in color and black and white. The children will delight in the elfishness of the fairies and in the delicate beauty of Myfanwy. While this is primarily a gift book it can well be used in the library. Children from eight to ten will enjoy it.—M. W.

GYPSY STORY-TELLER. By Cora Morris. (Illus. by Frank Dobias). Macmillan. \$3.

In these tales of gypsy story-tellers of many tribes over the globe, lovers of fairy tales will while many an hour away. The illustrations lend atmosphere to stories already teeming with interest and excitement. The table of contents classifies the stories by nationality; e.g., Scottish-Tinkler, Transylvanian, Bukovina, Polish, etc. Many boys and girls will want to read the book for themselves, but the story-teller will find a veritable mine of treasures for holding the boys and girls of any age at story hour. A truly lovely book.—W. W.

MARIE OF THE GYPSIES. By Rachel M. Varble. Little. \$2.

A close-up view of present day gypsies in the United States. There is a mystery, but there is neither disappointment nor unkind feeling toward the gypsies when it is discovered that Marie is really not a gypsy at all, but a very fortunate "gringo."—N. K. P.

BENNY AND HIS PENNY. By Lois Lenski. Knopf. \$2.

Benny is given a penny on his fourth birthday. The many ways he tries to spend his penny are recorded in charming colored pictures which show real understanding of how the world appears to a small lad on such an exciting adventure. The text is slight, only supplementing the pictures which are full of humorous detail. They will delight little children from four to seven (and their elders as well). A shining new penny is found on the front cover of the book.—H. N.

THE TWIN LAMBS. By Helen Fuller Orton. Stokes. \$1.25.

Mrs. Orton now increases her list of stories of farm pets to include twin lambs. Blossom and Snowflake are all that pet lambs should be, and little children will love to read about their simple adventures. The illustrations are attractive.—L. H.

FROM THE HORN OF THE MOON. By Arthur Mason. Doubleday. \$2.50.

More tales of the *Wee Men of Ballywooden* told in the same inimitable Irish manner. The Wee Men have their troubles just the same as anyone else and the author knows how to tell about them. Of the three stories which comprise the volume, the first "The Moving of the Bog" probably is the most interesting. The council of the Wee Men will appeal to the child's imagination for the suggestions and objections to each plan for the saving of the bog are something he might have suggested himself. For children from eight to fourteen.—N. K. P.

In The Library World

Printed Propaganda In American Libraries

THE FOLLOWING is a section translated¹ from a Moscow pamphlet entitled *Petchatnaya Propaganda Arigi* (Printed Propaganda of the Book), by V. Sakharov, edited by V. A. Nevskoga, published in Moscow at the State Educational Pedagogical Printing Office, 1931:

American libraries attach a great deal of importance to printed propaganda.²

In the first place, they make extensive use of the newspapers by regularly informing their readers of library news, inserting notices of new books and books on current events, lists of books on special subjects, outlines of books, reports of their work, etc.

The following data will give some idea of the amount of printed propaganda in the U. S. In the newspapers of Buffalo, during the first six months of 1923, 127 library articles and notices were printed, in Binghamton, 158 articles, in Indianapolis, during the years of 1919-1923, 186, 1014, 1480, 1677, 1577 articles and notices, respectively.

The material for the newspapers is edited in part by the libraries themselves and partly turned over to the reporters handling library information. In every instance it is transformed into more or less interesting newspaper material, in the usual American style, of course, which aims at sensation. Wheeler plainly advises librarians to spray "scent upon the news" when editing material for newspapers. The newspaper material is supplied with illustrations, such as portraits, photos, diagrams and caricatures.

The reason why American libraries prefer newspaper propaganda to other forms of printed propaganda is because the newspaper has an enormous circulation, and it is by means of the newspaper that the library comes in contact not only with its readers but also with all those whom it is still necessary to coax into the reading of books. Moreover, it seems to be the least costly way for libraries to print their propaganda.

However, a number of American libraries (Indianapolis, Cleveland, Youngstown, To-

ledo, Detroit, Brooklyn and others) have adopted other forms of propaganda.

A large number of libraries issue reports of their work in the form of lists and pamphlets of 2 to 10 pages and even books (according to the size of the library and appropriation for the report). Moreover, reports also appear in newspapers.

Some of the larger libraries issue guide-books and information bulletins, thus making it easier for the reader to use the library (New York, Cleveland, Detroit and others). The New York Public Library has prepared for different classes of readers a number of guide-books, ranging in size from a pamphlet of four pages to a handbook ("Handbook of the New York Library," 1921, 64p.).

Many library letters and lists are printed by means of a mimeograph or multigraph (multiplying apparatus, copying text written on a typewriter).

The libraries of Cleveland, Detroit, Indianapolis and other cities issue for their readers bulletins of new books with outlines, annotations, notes and articles.

Of course, like all library work as a whole, the American library propaganda is permeated with a definite class distinction. It strives to consciously deceive and fool the working class and working people, it aims to inoculate them with "bourgeois" pacifism and to suppress all revolutionary tendencies, playing upon egoistical sentiments.³

Our aims are just the opposite.

But we must thoroughly study the experiments of the American libraries in regard to the technical possibilities of making use of the press for library propaganda.

Books for College Libraries

APPROXIMATELY 14,000 titles selected on the recommendation of 200 college teachers, librarians and other advisers are included in the second preliminary edition of *A List of Books for College Libraries*, prepared by Charles B. Shaw for the Carnegie Corporation of New York Advisory Group on College Libraries and published by the American Library Association (Chicago, 1931. cl. 810 p. \$3.50). This is probably the definitive edition, although at least one subsequent edition may be issued in course of time.

The list does not pretend to be complete or

¹Translated by Arthur E. Bostwick, librarian, St. Louis Public Library.

²It is characteristic that Wheeler in his book on library propaganda, from which we have extracted a great deal of material for this paragraph, allots but a quarter of a sheet to printed propaganda.

³See for instance the samples of letters sent by the Cleveland Library in the article by P. Dovnorovitch "Experiment of library publicity in America" (Krasnyi bibliotekar, 1927, No. 5).

exhaustive in any division of any of the subjects, which run alphabetically from Astronomy to Zoology. The needs of the graduate student and the research worker were ruled out at the start. It definitely tries to include only those books, states the editor, which the undergraduate student could reasonably be expected to use in the pursuit of his work in courses commonly offered in the various liberal-arts colleges and those additional books to which students would go for their recreational and general reading. No one college library reporting had more than 8,251 of the 14,000 titles listed, and one had only 158. The *List* should consequently prove of great value as an aid in book selection and book buying, and everything has been done to further this in the way of information as to publishers, prices and editions. Library of Congress card numbers have also been included, and the index is very full. Out-of-print and expensive books have been held to the minimum.

Many recently published books have been included. The date of the completion of the manuscript may be gathered from an entry on page 280: "Dictionary of American Biography. . . . 20v. (v. 1, 2, ready)." Eight volumes of the D.A.B. have now been published. One also misses Abraham Flexner's *Universities: American, English, German*.

Resolution About Publications for Blind

THE FOLLOWING joint resolution, to amend the Act of June 7, 1924, providing for the free transmission through the mails of certain publications for the blind, was introduced in the House of Representatives on December 8, 1931:

RESOLVED by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Act approved June 7, 1924, providing for the free transmission through the mails of certain publications for the blind is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Books in raised characters for the use of the blind, whether prepared by hand or printed, which do not contain advertisements (a) when furnished free by an organization, institution, or association not conducted for private profit to blind persons, or to institutions or libraries conducting lending departments of literature for the blind, shall be transmitted in the United States mails free of postage; (b) when furnished by an organization, institution, or association not conducted for private profit to blind persons or to institutions or libraries conducting lending departments of literature for the blind, at a price not greater than the cost price thereof shall be transmitted in the United States mail at the postage rate of 1 cent for each pound or fraction thereof; under such regulations as the Postmaster General may prescribe."

San Francisco's New City Charter

COMMENCING on the first of the year San Francisco began operating under a new City Charter. The Provision governing the library is as follows:

The library department shall be under the management of the library commission consisting of eleven members who shall be appointed by the mayor and shall serve without compensation.

The eleven library trustees constituting the board of library trustees in office at the time this charter shall go in effect shall, by lot, classify their respective terms of office so that three of such terms shall begin at twelve o'clock noon on the 15th day of January, 1932, 1933 and 1934, respectively, and two such terms shall begin at twelve o'clock noon on the 15th day of January, 1935. The term of each commissioner shall be four years, at the expiration of which the mayor shall appoint his successor.

The library commission shall appoint a librarian and a secretary who shall hold office at its pleasure. The librarian shall be the chief executive of the department. He shall appoint, and at his pleasure may discipline and remove, all employees of the library department.

The library commission shall be the successors in office of the board of library trustees holding office at the time this charter shall go into effect and shall have all of the powers and duties thereof, except as in this charter otherwise provided.

New Buildings

THE PROPERTY at 17 E. 47th Street, New York City, has been purchased for the Mercantile Library, now located at 13 Astor Place, N. Y. The building now on the new site will be torn down and in its place an eight-story modern fireproof structure will be erected which will adequately house the library's collection of more than 250,000 volumes. Plans for the new building indicate that the cost in connection with relocating the library will be about \$350,000, including land, building and moving. This is the third removal of the Mercantile Library since its organization 112 years ago. Incidentally it is the second oldest library in New York City, antedated only by the New York Society Library. The new building is expected to be ready for occupancy in October.

THE NEW Anza Branch of the San Francisco Public Library in the western part of the Richmond district is well under way. When completed the building will cost approximately \$50,000 and will have a collection amounting to 15,000 volumes. The building is arranged so that there is a separate wing for children and another for adult readers.

A Checklist of Current Bibliography

ARBITRATION—INTERNATIONAL

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.—Library. *The Permanent court of arbitration; select list of references on arbitrations before the Hague tribunals and the international commissions of inquiry, 1902-1928.* [Washington, D. C.: 1931] 29p. Gratis. (Reading List, no. 30.)

BANKING

U. S. Department of Commerce.—Library. *A list of publications issued periodically—foreign and domestic. Compiled by Elizabeth M. Carmack under the direction of Charlotte L. Carmody, Assistant Librarian.* Washington, D. C.: The Library, June, 1931. 201.

Day, P. M. The federal reserve banking system; a bibliography. *Bulletin of the New York Public Library.* 35:220-238, 477-408. 1931.

Supplements list of the same title, compiled by R. A. Sawyer (New York Public Library, 1928. 106 p.).

BILLBOARDS

Cannon, L. H. *Billboards and aesthetic legislation; new applications of the police power.* St. Louis: Public Library, 1931. pap. p. 205-240. 25c.

Extracted from the *Monthly Bulletin* for August.

BUSINESS

Herb, M. I. *Business and banking periodicals reviewing the business situation.* Washington, D. C.: Bureau of Agricultural Economics, August, 1931. 15 p. Mimeographed. (Agricultural Economics Bibliography, no. 34.)

CALIFORNIA

Los Angeles County Library. *"El Pueblo" and its neighbors; a reading list on early days in Southern California.* Los Angeles: The Library, 1931. pap. 9 p.

Reprinted from *Books and Notes*, July.

CANADA

[Staton, F.] *The Canadian North West; a bibliography of the sources of information in the Public reference library of the City of Toronto, Canada, in regard to the Hudson's Bay Company, the fur trade and the early history of the Canadian North West.* Toronto: Public Library, 1931. pap. 52 p. \$1.

Sykes, W. J. *Canada: a reading list.* Ottawa: Carnegie Public Library, October, 1931. pap. 23 p.

CATALOGS—LIBRARY

British museum. Dept. of printed books. *General catalogue of printed books.* London and Beccles, W. Clowes and Sons, Ltd., 1931. 2 v., A-Aleu, published. Subs.

Royal Empire Society (formerly Royal Colonial Institute). *Subject catalogue, by Evans Lewis.* v. 2: *The Commonwealth of Australia, the Dominion of New Zealand, the South Pacific, general voyages and travels, and Arctic and Antarctic regions.* London: The Society, 1931. 763 p. cl. £1.11s.6d.

Vol. I, published in 1930, covered the British Empire, in general, and Africa.

CHILDREN'S LITERATURE

Bamberger, F. E., and Broenig, A. M. *A guide to children's literature.* Balt.: Johns Hopkins Press, 1931. pap. 113 p. \$1.75. [PW]

Lynch, C. J., and Beard, S. A. *Books for youth.* Brooklyn, N. Y., Public Library, 1931. pap. 46 p. 5c.

Prepared by Karl Brown of The New York Public Library.

Special Libraries News Notes

IN 1930, Marian Manley, as chairman of the Committee for Cooperation in Business Library Service for the Special Libraries Association, asked various members, who were giving away their duplicates, to send lists of material to her, so that her committee might act as a clearing house for various libraries. These libraries were not necessarily members of the Special Libraries Association, but libraries which, because of limited funds, had not been able to purchase certain reference books or manuals which are expensive. In many cases, an edition a year old would answer the purpose of a public library very well. Special libraries, because of their limited facilities for storing duplicates, have always been very generous in distributing these duplicates, so that while the idea was new for the Special Libraries Association, it was not a new idea.

As a result of Miss Manley's request, various libraries throughout the country have been listing the material which they have for distribution. One library alone distributed over nine hundred pieces of material from July to December, some of which were valued as high as twenty or twenty-five dollars a volume. Ordinarily the receiving library pays the express charges, but in the case of small lots of material, the donor has usually paid the postage. Public libraries having specific wants would do well to inquire whether or not the committee already established have duplicates available for distribution.

AT A RECENT meeting of the Permanent Committee of the International Association of Road Congresses it was decided to establish an international library to compile bibliographical information on technical literature. This library will be maintained at the headquarters of the Association in Paris. The United States was represented at the meeting by H. S. Fairbanks, Chief of the Information Division of the Bureau of Public Roads, and by William Finger, Automotive Trade Commissioner of the Department of Commerce.

ON OCTOBER 19, 1931, the first issue of a new Library bulletin was distributed to branch offices and all male employees in the Home Office Building of the Hardware Mutual Casualty Company, Stevens Point, Wisconsin. The purpose of the bulletin is to keep the employees informed concerning additions to the Library and important articles in insurance and business periodicals.

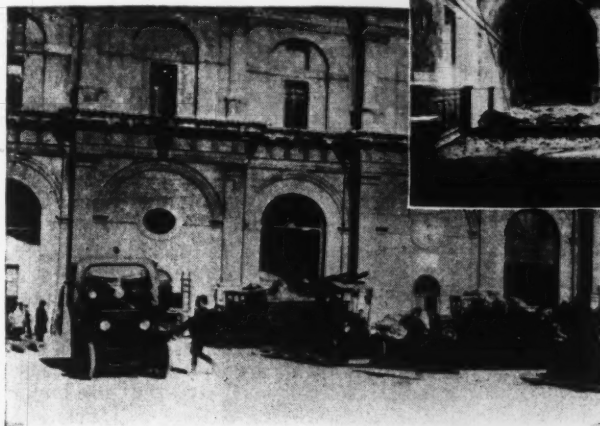
Facts About Vatican Collapse

THE WHOLE LITERATE world was dismayed on December 22nd when the roof of a wing of the Vatican Library built by Pope Sixtus V in 1588 collapsed, and partly destroyed the beautifully frescoed valuted ceiling of the great Sistine Hall and then crashed on down through the reference rooms and into the basement. Some rare works of art and 15,000 valuable books were involved in addition to the serious loss of life, five men being killed.

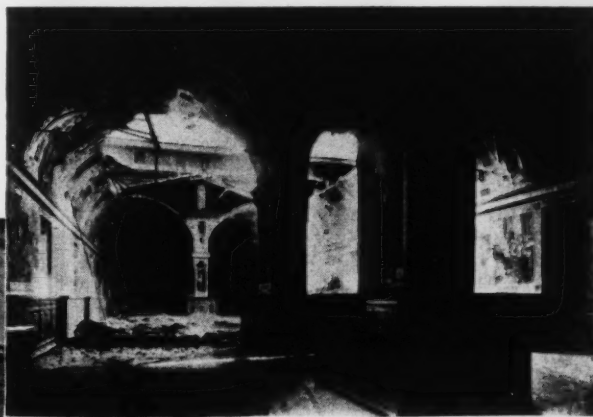
Before his rapid ascent to the highest honors of the Church, Pope Pius XI, known as the "Librarian Pope," had spent the greater part of his life in the quiet seclusion of a scholar's life, as the head of two

umes and mss., with flexibility for future growth, adequate classification and cataloging of the volumes, effective protection and preservation of the books, and proper facilities for easy access to volumes sought.

With the influx, century after century, of literary treasures—the gifts of kings and princes, the donations of illustrious families, and the rich libraries bequeathed by the successive Popes—the problem of book storage in the Vatican Library had become acute. The monumental task of providing the best possible



Firemen of Rome Arrived Immediately Following the Collapse



Sistine Hall Which Was Destroyed by the Collapse of the Tile Roof

universal centers of knowledge, the Ambrosiana Library of Milan and the Vatican Library. For the Vatican Library, to which he had dedicated many years of his loving care, His Holiness had a deep affection. During his work as librarian, he had visited all the principal libraries of Europe, with appreciation both of their rich heritage and their deficiencies from modern technical and mechanical points of view in matters relating to the preservation and use of the precious volumes housed.

An interest close to his heart, one of Pius XI's first undertakings as Pope, was the complete modernization of the Vatican Library, plans for which he had formulated in his mind long before. These included provision of adequate present space for the thousands of vol-

housing, and of recataloging the hundreds of thousands of volumes was begun five years ago, the Old World and the New engaging in the work together. An American Committee, under the leadership of Dr. W. W. Bishop of the University of Michigan and including Mr. J. C. M. Hanson of the University of

Chicago and Mr. Milton J. Lord of the American Academy in Rome gave invaluable help in planning, organizing and launching the new library program and getting the colossal task of recataloging under way following the Library of Congress.

For the expansion work, the experience of America was also sought, and the firm of Sned & Company, Jersey City, was appointed by the Holy See to install modern steel bookstacks, for the protection of the Vatican's priceless collections. The installation had been completed in two vast halls adjoining the old Library on the east side of the Belvedere Courtyard—one on the ground floor which formerly served as the Vatican stables, and the other on the next floor above which was previously occupied by the Mosaic School and Factory

of the Reverend Fabric of St. Peter's. The first unit completed in 1928 is designed to hold 350,000 volumes, the second unit completed in October 1931 will take care of 420,000.

The famous Sistine Hall was 233 feet long, 51 feet wide and 29 feet high. Precious manuscripts it contained included: the autographed manuscript of Petrarch's *Sonnets*; one of the *Acts of the Apostles*, written in the eleventh and twelfth centuries and given to Pope Innocent VIII by the Queen of Cyprus; the noted fourth century Greek Codex B of the *Bible*; a fragment of a sixth century manuscript of the *Gospel of St. Matthew*; fourth and fifth century manuscripts of *Vergil*; a fourth century palimpsest of Cicero's *De Republica*; early manuscripts of Terence; the breviary of Matthew Corvinus, King of Hungary dating from 1478; and a copy of *The Divine Comedy* made by Boccaccio and presented by him to Petrarch. The paintings which decorated the room depicted incidents from the life of Pope Sixtus V, while art works included many gifts of rulers to the Popes.

In a recent letter to Mr. Angus S. Macdonald, president of Snead & Company, Monsignor Eugene Tisserant, Pro-prefect of the Vatican Library, describes the catastrophe as follows:

"Ten minutes before the collapse, I was examining a crack in the pavement near the Reference Room, which had appeared at 11:30 A.M. but which was not regarded as serious as there had been no change in it between then and 4:10 P.M. I had not seen the

crack in the morning. I was going into audience, when I was informed about it, and as we have seen so many cracks appear in our old buildings, did not give it very serious thought. Fifteen cracks, perhaps, had been repaired in September in the same pavement, none of which had been judged, or proved to be serious.



The Reference Room of the Vatican from Which Last Book Was Removed Twenty Minutes Before Collapse

"When I returned to the Library, I realized, from the length of the crack, although it was not more than one millimeter wide, that it was of more serious nature, and telephoned to the Ufficio Tecnico. Unable to reach Mr. de Rossi, and obliged to be in the city at 4:45, I gave instructions to locate the engineers, and walked to my appointment.

"How the building fell it is not easy to tell, but it is sure notwithstanding the crack of the morning that the upper part of the building fell first. I suppose a beam fell on the vault of the Sistine Room and that was the origin of the collapse as things that were in the Salone Sis-

tino were broken before they fell; fragments of two cups remained on the pavement of the Sistine Room at some distance from the hole through the floor although they had been standing near the center of the collapsed portion. Also an exhibition case which was for three-quarters at least on the collapsed pavement did not fall entire but was broken before the pavement collapsed as one of the two feet remained and was pushed into the wall at two meters from its place. Moreover I find a 'confirmatur' of this hypothesis in the fact that the mss. which were on exhibition

in this case were found, those which were at the northern extremity first and the other ones after as if the exhibition case had been inclined causing the mss. to slide. The roof was made in a very curious manner, supported only by rafters and struts, the principal rafters being heavy beams connected by two inverted iron V's fixed to the rafters by nails. Instead of the king post there was a wall erected on top of the pillars. There were no tie beams and no wall plate, only light struts from the rafters to the central wall.

"The work of reinforcing the arches, preliminary to the reconstruction of this part of the Library was underway (this work included replacing the oak beams with structural steel trusses, and was being done by Italian engineers) and possibly vibrations caused by the picks of men removing the wall under the new arches, or some slight movement of a supporting beam occasioned the collapse. Examination of the fallen rafters after the tragedy showed that they were decayed, possibly by dampness, making the nails of little use.

"At any rate the whole central part of the building gave way at 4:30 P.M., falling from the roof to the soil in from two to three minutes. The firemen of Rome arrived almost immediately, and by 5:05 from 60 to 100 men were at work. The labor of searching for the bodies of the dead, and for books and manuscripts went forward feverishly day and night. The fifth corpse was found on the 24th at 11:45 A.M. at which time some 700 tons of debris had been removed. Meantime we were removing books from the undamaged parts of the Reference Room to the new stacks in the old Mosaic Factory. When the last corpse was found, the work was interrupted long enough for carpenters to erect a scaffolding to support the remaining arches and walls. When the scaffolding reached the Reference Room level, we saved the books which were in shelves fixed to the southern walls. By 10:10 on the 27th we had removed those on the northern wall. At 10:30 the rain began to fall heavily, but all was sheltered.

"On January 2nd the books that had not been damaged were on the shelves of the new bookstacks ready for use. We estimate 800 to 1000 books damaged beyond repair. Some 10,000 must be cleaned, repaired or rebound. With the fall of 900 tons from a height of 32 meters, and the excessive movement of loaded trucks and people, we felt some alarm lest new disaster occur. Careful investigation, however, has revealed nothing amiss. A study is being made of static conditions of walls and vaults in all the Library and the Palace,

and with no further disturbance noted, we feel more secure."

Pope Pius XI hopes to rebuild as soon as possible the part destroyed by the roof's collapse, and the work of modernization will go forward as rapidly as is expedient, according to Mr. Macdonald, who returned from his third conference with Pius XI in Rome, October 1st. The Vatican Library was established in 1450 by Pope Nicholas V, who gathered some 9000 volumes scattered about his palaces, and set aside several rooms to house them.

Milwaukee Suburbs Win Book Fee Cut

AT A MEETING on January 22 with a sub-committee of the county board, joint judiciary and finance committee and suburban representatives, Milwaukee Public Library officials agreed to lower the cost of circulating each book in the suburbs from ten to nine cents. Other changes in the contract proposed for the suburban areas are: Eliminating 2½ cents commissions to rural librarians or school teachers on each book circulated and all other fees to "stimulate book circulation"; quarterly reports to each outlying district of the cost of the system and the number of books circulated; no charge if books sent to outlying districts are not distributed; local librarians may choose the books to be sent to suburban areas. The revised contract will mean a saving to outlying Milwaukee districts of from \$15,000 to \$20,000 a year for the county traveling library service.

Open Round Table

(Continued from page 200)

which offered the kind of work which she wanted and had done before.

Before concluding, the writer wishes to say, the above is not intended to attack the whole faculty body of the school concerned. The faculty had members whose acquaintance she still appreciates. These instructors apparently did not have any or much influence in the school, at least as far as helping students get positions.

May the writer take the liberty of saying the library schools should, and will be the best places to draw on for librarians, provided the students can rely on them for fairness, resourcefulness, and interest in the students, as students.

—AGNES TOMCZAK

The Open Round Table

Five Weaknesses Of County System

IN REPLY to a statement in the article "Problems Faced by a Young Commission" in *THE LIBRARY JOURNAL* for January 1, 1932, with respect to county libraries not progressing more rapidly in their development and service: perhaps the results of the experience of the writer as a county librarian and organizer over a period of three and one-half years, together as a "homesteader" patron thirty miles from one of the two county library systems for a year, may aid in a solution of this important problem.

There seem to be five main weaknesses of the county library system. They must be recognized, faced and remedied before much can be accomplished. Number two and four of the difficulties were the hardest to deal with. The five points are as follows: (1) Lack of money for library purposes. (2) Lack of trained librarians with the rural viewpoint of service. (3) Inadequate, or inefficient library laws. (4) Inadequate interpretation, or misinterpretation of the county library through ignorance, or through political motives. (5) No way to enforce the county library laws now in existence.

When the needs and desires of the rural patrons are supplied, the first weakness—lack of money—vanishes in proportion to the service received. A county librarian without the rural viewpoint will hopelessly cripple the work of any county library in an incredibly short time. As certainly as she caters to the townspeople, and sends the rural residents only the badly worn, or out-of-date books which the local residents won't read, the county library is doomed. At least it will take years to pull it back where it should be. A thorough knowledge of local rural conditions is vital to the success of any county library.

The third point is a matter of publicity and education among the legislators, together with visible proof that it is a worthwhile enterprise.

The fourth point is a subtle one, and a county or state's attorney may cause annoyance and frequent retarding of efficient policy and service with each election.

The fifth point has to do not only with the county library law enforcement, but every worthwhile law that is passed. It is merely a condition of the time. The dear public is

too indifferent to realize the enormous expense of law breaking. When it awakens, law enforcement will take care of itself.

The remedy for these five weaknesses would seem to be wider, organized publicity for the possible patrons of the county library movement in its most interesting, useful phases, and more specialized training of those in charge from a rural viewpoint.

We, as professional librarians have recognized the advantages of county library service for quite some time. It is our duty to get it on an active working basis among the people it is designed to serve, and who are putting up the money for its support and service.

MRS. MABEL W. ETHERIDGE,
*Librarian, State Teachers College,
Minot, N. D.*

Misunderstandings About League Documentation

MAY I be allowed space in your columns for a few comments on Mrs. Gordon's article on League of Nations publications, which appeared in the January number of *THE LIBRARY JOURNAL*?

Mrs. Gordon's idea of classifying these documents in accordance with the scheme of the Sales Department of the Secretariat is practical, with the exception that she has entirely disregarded section Ia: Administrative Commissions, Ib: Minorities, and the section, at present unnumbered, General Questions. This system, but without these exceptions, has been recommended by the League Secretariat and by the World Peace Foundation, our agent in the United States, for several years. She seems to be under a grave misapprehension as to League organization, however. A little study of the question, which is admirably explained in the Key to League of Nations documents, published by the World Peace Foundation, would make it clear that the Economic Committee and indeed all other Committees are never subordinate to the Secretariat, any more than the Smithsonian Institute is a bureau of the Department of the Interior or the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations a branch of the Department of State. There is also a strange confusion between what is entitled "Official number" on every document published and what Mrs. Gordon calls the official number but is rather the "sales series number" or simply the series number.

The organization of the League is undoubtedly complicated, but a great deal has been done to assist librarians in the handling of the documents. It seems a pity that such an important library as that of the University of Pennsylvania should plunge into the matter and even publish opinions on it with so little preliminary study. It is a hindrance rather than a help to other librarians.

JANET F. SAUNDERS,

Head Cataloger, League of Nations Library.

Analytics For Serials

A PROPOSAL to prepare analytic entries for serial publications has again come to the fore. I say "again" because the proposal is not new to the American Library Association, although a new plan for carrying it out may be adopted. Such a plan was debated in the 'nineties, was put into effect, and the work was conducted under the auspices of the Publishing Board for the thirty years between 1898 and 1918. Analytic cataloging of serials is today part of a comprehensive plan under consideration by the Cooperative Committee on Cataloging. A number of the larger libraries have lately been examining their sets with a view to recommending to the committee the titles of such as seem suitable for analysis. Judging by the number of serials of this type found recently in the collections of the John Crerar Library, the total number likely to be submitted to the committee will be several hundred.

Two questions at once arise. One is: Shall a serial already indexed in one of the standard indexes be analyzed also on cards? The other question is: What type of analysis shall be used, cards or the printed index? Determination of these questions involves, on the one hand, consideration of labor of indexing, payment for that labor, expense of "adapting," filing and housing cards, and cost of card cabinets; and on the other hand, weighing the relative advantages to readers, students, research workers and reference assistants, of cards as compared with the printed index. Let us review the course of the American Library Association when confronted with these same questions in the past.

In 1898 the Publishing Board of the Association secured the cooperation of certain libraries which assumed the work of preparing the copy for unit cards, analyzing the contents of 306 periodicals and transactions of learned societies. The copy was sent to an editor, who revised headings and details of

style to preserve consistency, and sent it, accompanied by a way-bill of instructions regarding number of cards for each title and distribution to subscribers, to the Library Bureau, which printed and shipped the cards. These shipments were made fortnightly at first but were sent out at longer intervals later. The number of titles printed in a year was about 3000. Subscribers contracted to take, as they preferred, either all the cards or only those analyzing certain serials.

By 1915 the subscribers came to realize that many serials thus analyzed on cards differed in no wise from ordinary articles in periodicals which were then indexed adequately by the Wilson and other printed indexes. Revision of the list was made and only such serials were retained as were monographic, either strictly so by form or practically so by reason of length or importance of article. The work was continued upon 231 monographic serials, the total titles averaging 1614 a year. No one library filed all the cards issued; but assuming that an author card and at least one subject card would be needed by the complete subscribers, the card catalogs of the larger libraries were receiving 3000 cards yearly for seventeen years, and 1600 cards after 1915.

Three years later a rather radical proposal was made to the Association by Mr. H. W. Wilson, namely, that the entries then appearing on printed cards should be run into the current issues of the *Readers' Guide Supplement* (later the *International Index to Periodicals*). The acting collaborators were to continue their services in preparing copy, which was to be forwarded to the Wilson Company by the editor. Subscribers were to be charged on the service basis and the libraries supplying the copy were to be credited on their bills for the Index. The proposal was carefully considered with the result that the transfer from cards to printed index was approved.

The reasons in favor of the printed index for indexing serials were mainly the following; and they are even more cogent today, in view of the increase in printed indexes, than they were in 1918. First, the printed index, being issued promptly in monthly or bi-monthly numbers, to be later cumulated into volumes covering the past year or three years, automatically and for that very reason separates recent material from earlier material. Only a card catalog arranged chronologically by the dates of cards will accomplish that. Secondly, the card catalog is relieved of thousands of cards and the catalog force is freed of any concern for current issues of serials

indexed in the printed index, and may devote more time to regular cataloging.

In favor of the chronological arrangement of material, made possible by the printed index, it may be said that the student or research worker in the sciences and technical arts always selects the most recent material; and even in the field of the humanities, the debater and the writer prefer recent to older works of information; the user of old and rare books will consult only the author entries. Periodicals and transactions of learned societies are today the media in which the advances of knowledge are recorded. Hence the grouping of these references by date is more needed than in the case of books. Whether or not these reasons are approved today, they were decisive in 1918.

After the transfer of the A. L. A. serial entries to the *International Index to Periodicals*, such serials as could be obtained from the publishers gratis for indexing were, with the consent of the collaborators, taken over by the Wilson indexing force. As all but thirteen of the A. L. A. serials, still current at the beginning of the present year, are now done by the Company, these thirteen will not be indexed unless they may be obtained free from the publishers. The cooperative features of the work thus have come to an end.

In view of the past attitude of the collaborating libraries toward analysis of serial publications on cards, and of the satisfactory service that the printed index has rendered in the field formerly occupied by the analytic cards, any plan to resume analysis on cards would seem unwise. On the other hand, the specialized character and limited distribution of the serials likely to be recommended to the committee for analysis would seem to make the indexing commercially unprofitable. A printed index to serials not elsewhere indexed, issued currently with cumulations, and financed at cost by the American Library Association, might be the solution of the difficulty.

WILLIAM STETSON MERRILL,
Editor *A. L. A. Serials Indexing*.

The Library School's Responsibility

THE WRITER of this article thinks the school's responsibility with regard to locating librarians begins at least at the beginning of the calendar year. By that time the school should know whether the student will make a librarian, other things being equal. After that time the school ought to try to place each student in the position for which his abilities and experience have prepared him.

One would naturally expect the library school to be able to offer the best information about an applicant. According to the writer's experience, however, the article referred to put too much power into the hands of certain faculty members. In December and January of the year in which the writer attended library school, the students were uneasy about getting positions, after graduation. (These included even those who later appeared on the honor roll.) Consequently, some asked advice of one of the members of the faculty who said it was too early to worry about positions. The instructor in the case added that application in the A. L. A. and commercial agencies will prove fruitless because the matter is referred to the instructors in the library schools which the applicants attended, who "know the students best." The writer evidently took the wrong step as far as assistance from the library school was concerned in trying to get a position before the above statement was made. The writer hopes she is not rashly drawing conclusions, when she thinks waiting for a position eight months after graduation was the result of the step she had taken. Unfortunately, this, like many things about which the truth is not admitted, cannot be actually proved. Suffice it to say, that from the time the September school opened to the present time, the victim received only one notice of a vacancy. This was in a high school library. The position was already filled at the time she was writing her application. It is interesting as well as important to note that the applicant before attending library school was cataloger in a college library for four years, and wanted to continue the same kind of work in order to do justice to herself and to the library in which she worked. She has now the kind of work for which she was applying, but only after waiting eight months, and getting the position through the assistance of a librarians' agency.

At the time the writer was applying for the position she holds at present she was also applying for a similar position of which she was notified through *THE LIBRARY JOURNAL*. Shortly after accepting her present position she also received a letter from a university librarian asking whether she was still interested and available for the position she requested through *THE LIBRARY JOURNAL*. Whether the applicant would be successful in getting either of these positions or not, she cannot say, since she discontinued the correspondence upon accepting the present position. The point is, she was applying for positions

¹ Drury, Gilbert, "Placement by Library School," *LIBRARY JOURNAL*, January 1, 1932.

(Turn to page 197, please)

Library Organizations

Library Club Of Atlanta

DR. THEODORE H. JACK, Vice-President of Emory University and Professor of History spoke at the dinner meeting of the newly organized Library Club of Atlanta held at the Atlanta Athletic Club Friday evening, January 15, 1932, his subject being "The Literature of Southern History." Miss Charlotte Templeton, Librarian of Atlanta University, paid tribute to Miss Sarah C. N. Bogle, mentioning her irreparable loss to the library profession. This club was organized in October in order to foster a kindred interest in library affairs and to serve as a common meeting ground for pleasure and profit for the fifty libraries within a ten mile radius of Atlanta. These include State, Public, College and University, School, and Special libraries. The officers are: Miss Clara E. Howard, Dean, Library School, Emory University, President; Miss Mary Frances Cox, Carnegie Library of Atlanta, Vice President; Mrs. J. H. Crossland, Georgia School of Technology, Treasurer; Miss Catherine P. Walker, Fourth Corps Area Librarian, United States Army, Secretary.

Illinois Association High School Librarians

ON NOVEMBER 20, 1931, the seventh annual meeting of the Illinois Association of High School Librarians was held in Urbana in connection with the Illinois High School Conference. Miss Bertram French, president, presided. A very interesting program occupied the morning session. Miss Edna Langehennig, English teacher of the East St. Louis High School, the first speaker on the subject of "Reading Lists," pointed out their importance. Miss Annie Batchelder, speaking next on the same subject, discussed concretely the following kinds of lists—those made by an individual teacher for her own classes, lists for an individual school, lists for an entire city, state lists, and national lists. The next subject was "Leisure Reading," and, as the first speaker, Miss Dorothy Hinman, English teacher of the Illinois State Normal University, made a plea to English teachers and librarians to work together to increase and improve the students' reading in the literature they should be familiar with before going to

college. The second speaker was Miss Edith K. Van Eman, Librarian of Evanston Township High School, who spoke on methods of stimulating the reading of boys and girls of high school age. She gave a summary of means reported by librarians as having been tried and found successful. The last speaker on the morning program was Miss Adah Whitcomb, Library Supervisor of School Department, Chicago, who spoke on "Juvenile Books Worthy of a Place on High School Reading Lists." She went over a list of these books briefly discussing each one. Then the meeting adjourned until the afternoon, and those who wished to, attended the annual luncheon of the Association at the University of Illinois Women's Club.

The afternoon session was opened by a report on the Illinois State Meeting given by Miss Louise Fisher, Librarian of Peoria High School. This was followed by a talk on "School Library Opportunities" by Mr. Joseph F. Gonnely, District Superintendent, Board of Education, Chicago, who pointed out not only the opportunities of service but also what help the various teachers can expect from the library and what cooperation the library can rightfully expect from each member of the faculty.

The following were elected as officers for the next year:

President, Miss Dorothy Schumacher, Crane Junior College, Chicago; Vice-President, Miss Bertram French, Danville High School; Secretary-Treasurer, Miss Eleanor Libbey, New Trier Township High School, Winnetka.

Library Activities In Bengal

THE HON. Kumar Munandra Deb Rai Mahasai M. L. C. has introduced into the Bengal Legislature two bills to empower local boards and municipalities to subsidize and organize libraries. One of these bills follows the lines laid down in the draft bill drawn up by Mr. S. R. Ranganathan and recommended by the Library Service Section of the All Asia Educational Conference held in Benares a year ago. At the third session of the Bengal Library Conference resolutions were passed asking the Government to support the two bills now before the Council for establishing country libraries. The necessity for a school of librarianship in Calcutta was also insisted upon.

Book Reviews

Student's Manual Of Bibliography

THE NAME of Arundell Esdaile has become well known to American librarians within the past few years through a considerable volume of printed work as author and editor. His bibliographies of Meredith and Hardy, his list of English tales before 1740, particularly his little volume *Sources of English Literature*, and, latest of all, his editorship of *The Year's Work in Librarianship* have introduced readers on this side to a commendable body of work, attractively presented.

To this work is now added the title under review. It is an extension of lectures delivered to British students of librarianship, presumably at the London School of Librarianship. It is therefore chiefly based upon English books, the examples cited are also English, and both parts of the volume are restricted to the most important available or obvious titles.

The book divides sharply into two distinct sections. Chapters 1-8 have to do with what has been variously termed critical, analytical or anatomical bibliography; the physical book, its materials, printing, illustration, binding, collation and description. This is the field in which the British bibliographer is preeminent, and he has few disciples and imitators in the United States. These chapters are the best part of the book.

Chapters 9-10 might well be entitled "National and Subject Bibliographies." In them are listed a few dozen outstanding titles with brief but pungent comment. Chapter 11, the last, is entitled "The Arrangement of Bibliographies." It is too short and too dogmatic, yet it is suggestive and helpful.

The author makes prefatory acknowledgment to many friends and helpers, which perhaps explains a certain unevenness in treatment and rather frequent slips, such as the following:

Page 229. Author's name in the footnote is misspelled.

Page 32 and 271. De Morgan title misquoted.

Page 276. It is now the American Library Association and not THE LIBRARY JOURNAL that is publishing the annual supplements to *Mudge Guide to Reference Books*.

Esdaile, Arundell. *A Student's Manual of Bibliography*. London, George Allen & Unwin Ltd. & The Library Association, 1931. 12s. 6d.

Page 307. Despite line three, Evans *American Bibliography* has scarcely "nearly reached its conclusion." It has, to be sure, covered the longer part of its chronological program but the years from 1796 to 1820 will probably claim more volumes than have already appeared.

Page 307. The Library of Congress does not enjoy the "right of receiving a copy of every book published in the U. S. A." Its privilege is the copyright privilege only, and of course many books are issued without copyright.

Page 322. A better choice for item 151 would have been Clarke's "The Use of United States Government Publications."

There are short bibliographies at chapter ends. There is a sufficient index, which to be most useful should have included the titles referred to throughout the book.

There are eight plates reproducing notable or typical bindings, and at the end, although we scarcely know why, there are blank leaves representing seven types of book papers.

The book should be most useful in this country for its first eight chapters, which form an admirable introduction to a subject not so much studied in American library schools as it should be.

—J. I. WYER

New Orleans Program

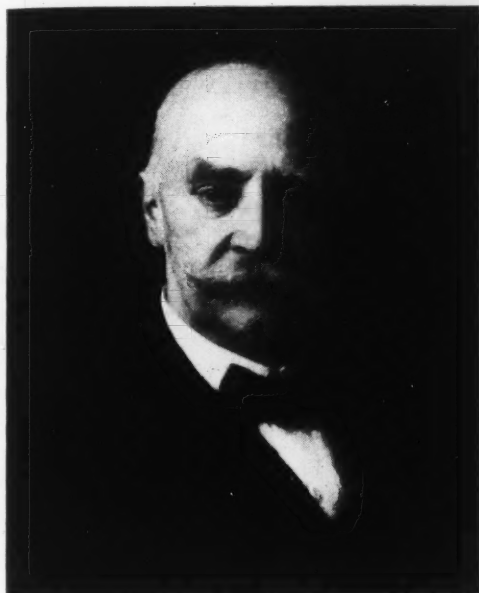
(Continued from page 184)

Human Product of the Machine Age"; two sessions of Junior College Libraries; Libraries in Correctional Institutions, one session covering the topic "Prison Libraries"; Library Architecture, one session; Library Radio Broadcasting, one session; Order and Book Selection, one session; Public Documents, one session covering the topic "Depository Library Legislation"; Publicity, one general session covering the topic "Publicity in 1932—" with a symposium discussion of publicity from the standpoint of economic and social conditions; Reference Librarians, one session for librarian and staff members of college and university libraries; Religious Books, two sessions; Small Libraries, one session covering the topic "Books and Book Problems"; University Library Extension Service, one session; Work with the Blind, one session covering the topic "Books and Work for the Blind"; and one session and a luncheon of the Young People's Reading Round Table.

Among Librarians

President of Board Of Trustees Dies

LEWIS CASS LEDYARD, President of the Board of Trustees of the New York Public Library since 1917, died on January 27. Mr. Ledyard was a leader of the bar in this coun-



Photograph by courtesy of N.Y. Herald Tribune
Lewis Cass Ledyard

try and former personal counsel to the elder J. Pierpont Morgan and the New York Stock Exchange. He became president of the Board of Trustees when the endowment of the reference department was between fifteen and sixteen million dollars. During his presidency it has more than doubled, being now more than thirty-seven million. The newspapers state that in his will the largest bequest was one of \$2,000,000 to the New York Public Library. The Pierpont Morgan Library is also to receive \$250,000 outright.

Appointments

RICHARD L. BROWN, recently graduated from Emory University Library School where he was a Rosenwald Scholarship man, has accepted a position as reference librarian in the Reading, Pa., Public Library.

ELIZABETH B. BABCOCK, Washington '29, has recently been appointed assistant librarian at the Mount Pleasant Branch of the Washington, D. C., Public Library. Miss Babcock was employed at the Belmont-Hawthorne Branch of the Portland Library Association before going east.

ANN M. BAXTER, formerly librarian of the law firm of Cravath, DeGersdorff, Swaine and Wood, has recently accepted a position in the Law Library of Columbia University.

OLMA B. BIRD, Wisconsin '30, was appointed assistant librarian, Veterans' Administrative Hospital, Hines, Ill., in October.

JESSIE M. BREWER, Columbia '23, recently high school librarian in Spokane, has accepted the position of first assistant in the University Branch, Seattle Public Library, succeeding Margaret Savage Porter, resigned.

RUTH J. CAIN, St. Catherine's '30, has been appointed librarian of the De La Salle High School, Minneapolis, Minn.

NELLIE M. CAREY, N. Y. P. '26, has resigned her position as librarian of the Hastings (Nebraska) Carnegie Library to become secretary of the Nebraska Library Commission at Lincoln, Nebr. She is also President of the Nebraska Library Association for 1930-31.

MERLE DERRENBACHER, Columbia '30, has left the Queens Borough Public Library and gone to the Cataloging Department of the University of North Carolina Library, Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

BONNIE ELLIOTT, Western Reserve '22, librarian of the Tockwotton Branch of the Providence Public Library, R. I., during the past year, has resigned to accept the appointment of librarian of the Glen Ridge, N. J., Public Library. Miss Alice G. Hathaway, librarian of the Nathan Bishop Branch, has been appointed her successor.

HAZEL ERCHINGER, Washington '19, has been appointed librarian of the Girard College Library, Philadelphia, Pa., to succeed Mildred Pope who has resigned from that position.

DOROTHY ENGSTRUM, Los Angeles '26, formerly with the H. E. Huntington Library, is now at the University of Southern California Library.

MRS. SUSAN MOLLESON FOSTER, N. Y. P. L. '15, has joined the cataloging staff of the Missionary Research Library, Union Theological Seminary.

MIRIAM GODLEY, Columbia '30, who has been working in the Rochester Public Library, is now an assistant in the New York Public Library, Circulation Department.

ANNA GERTRUDE HALL, Albany '15, has been engaged by the Oregon State Library to revise the List of Books for School Libraries.

MRS. DOROTHY M. HIGBIE, Columbia '30, has recently been appointed librarian of Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa.

MARION HORTON, Albany '17, has recently been appointed to a position in the City School Library in Los Angeles, Cal. Her work is chiefly with the development schools and the teachers of Mexican and Japanese children.

RENA HUMPHREYS, recently librarian at Greenwood, Miss., has been elected by the Mississippi legislature as state librarian to succeed Mrs. Marshall.

LOETA JOHNS, Washington '28, who has been in the Dewey Classification Division of the Library of Congress, has been appointed assistant cataloger in Yale University Library, New Haven, Conn.

HAZEL F. KING, Drexel '24, has been appointed assistant cataloger at Carleton College Library, Northfield, Minn.

HELEN LANE, Simmons '30, has been appointed cataloger and assistant in charge of reference at the B. F. Jones Memorial Library, Aliquippa, Pa., starting the middle of November, 1931.

MRS. GLADYS Y. LESLIE, N. Y. P. '14, has been appointed librarian of Bennington College, beginning January 1, 1932.

JEAN LITTLE, Washington '31, is now assistant in the Circulation Department of the Public Library of Tacoma, Washington.

GERALD D. McDONALD, Columbia '30, has been appointed head of the Reserve Book Room in the New York Public Library.

MARGUERITE McDONALD, Washington '29, for two years librarian of Whitewater, Wis., Public Library, was appointed first assistant in the Ballard Branch, Seattle Public Library.

CECIL J. McHALE, Michigan '29, formerly in charge of circulation at the University of North Carolina, has been appointed librarian of the new Northeastern Branch of the Washington, D. C., Public Library. Mr. McHale's appointment took effect January 2 although the new branch will not be open to the public until the first of March.

KATHERINE MACNABB, Columbia '30, who

has been an assistant in the Cataloging Department of the Queens Borough Public Library, has gone to the Kansas City Public Library as first assistant in the Catalog Department.

ANGELINE McNEILL, formerly catalog librarian of the University of Mississippi Library is now special cataloger of the Newberry Library of Chicago.

HAZEL MERRY, Wisconsin '25, was elected librarian of the Hastings, Neb., Public Library at the October meeting of the library board.

MARY E. MITCHELL has been appointed librarian of the H. W. Wilson Company.

PERSIS MOORE, Simmons '23, formerly junior librarian at the U. S. Veterans' Hospital, Jefferson Barracks, Missouri, has been appointed cataloger at the Dartmouth College Library.

KATHARINE S. PEARCE, Columbia '28, who has been the librarian of the Constantinople Women's College since 1924, has joined the cataloging staff of the Princeton University Library.

MRS. ELLEN M. PENNELL, after thirteen years of service in the University of Oregon Library, retired from service on November 28, 1931.

MRS. NANCY K. POSTON has been appointed librarian of the High Point, N. C., Public Library.

REBEKAH L. PROTZMAN, Drexel '30, has received an appointment as cataloger at the Princeton Theological Seminary Library, Princeton, N. J.

MILDRED SENIOR, Columbia '30, has left the Kansas City Public Library to take a position in the legislative reference service of the Library of Congress.

WILLIAM W. SHIRLEY, Pratt '28, librarian of the University of New Hampshire Library, Durham, N. H., has been appointed first assistant of the Economic Division of the New York Public Library.

DOROTHY VARIAN, Drexel '28, has been appointed librarian of Warren County Library, Belvidere, N. J.

KATHERINE WEAD, Pittsburgh '14, has been appointed regional librarian for three counties in Vermont, working under the Vermont Library Experiment Committee, with headquarters at the Billings Library, Burlington, Vt.

MARIAN E. WOLF, Drexel '30, has received an appointment as supervisor of periodicals, Princeton University Library, Princeton, N. J.

The Calendar Of Events

March 4-5, 1932—New Jersey Library Association and Pennsylvania Library Club, annual meeting at Hotel Chelsea, Atlantic City, New Jersey.

March 12—New Jersey School Librarians' Association, Lawrenceville, N. J.

April 25-30, 1932—American Library Association annual meeting at Roosevelt Hotel, New Orleans, La.

May 9-11—California Library Association, annual meeting at Biltmore Hotel, Santa Barbara, California.

June 13-17—Special Libraries Association, annual meeting at Lake Placid Club, Lake Placid, N. Y.

June 27-July 2—New England States and New Jersey, joint meeting at the Maplewood Club, Bethlehem, N. H.

October 11-13—Indiana Library Association, annual meeting at Evansville, Indiana.

October 12-15—Five State Regional Conference—Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, and Nebraska Library Associations—at Des Moines, Iowa.

October 13-15—Pennsylvania Library Association, annual meeting at the Nittany Lion, State College, Pennsylvania.

October 26-29—Southwestern Library Association, biennial meeting at Little Rock, Arkansas.

Los Angeles County Suffers Reduction

THE INCOME for the Los Angeles County Library for the year 1931 suffered a \$12,000 reduction due to the decreased valuation in city properties. A further reduction announced for 1932 makes the strictest economy necessary and a cut in book appropriations of \$25,000 has been made. A further economy measure is the decision to continue the summer schedule for branch libraries, closing all branches Saturday afternoons and evenings.

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College and library school graduate with five years experience wants position in university or college library. The South preferred. B17.

Young woman, university and library school graduate, now taking graduate work, with several years experience in university and public libraries, desires position in general or reference work. Available after April 1, 1932. B18.

Bibliographical assistant, university graduate, two years' library training, experienced special and public libraries, secretarial, editorial, statistical and research work, wants position in New York or suburb. B13.

Published At Cost

THE WINGATE Memorial Foundation, 57 East 56th Street, New York City, has published *School Athletics in Modern Education* at cost (\$2.). It is the edited record of the Wingate Memorial Lecture-Demonstrations conducted during 1930-31 before the Public Schools Athletic teachers and coaches of New York City. Herein are included both formal addresses and informal class discussions upon fourteen athletic games and sports, and twenty-one related subjects pertinent to making athletics serve sound educational and health objectives. The subject matter reaches back to the athletics of Ancient Greece and includes the latest experiments with new games and the new methods of organizing athletics for all.

Free

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY Library, Princeton, N. J. offers the following editions of the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* without charge, transportation collect: Third edition, volumes 1-9, 12, 14, 16-18; Eighth edition, complete; Ninth edition, lacking volume 22.

THE FOLLOWING publications from special libraries are free on payment of transportation charges. Address requests to Marian G. Manley, Newark, N. J., Public Library.

National Electrical Light Assoc. Proceedings, 1924, 1925, 1926.

National Variety Artists Fund—Metropolitan Opera House. April 26, 1931.

New England Railroads. Report of the New England Railroad Committee to the Governors of the New England states. May 1931.

Phillip's business directory of New York, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920.

Power's Catalogue and Directory Co. Power's Highway Catalog and Directory, 1930.

Railway Equipment & Publishing Co. Pocket list of railroad officials, 4th edition, 1930.

Slawson, H. W. Everyman's guide to motor efficiency. 1921.

Please mention THE LIBRARY JOURNAL in answering advertisements

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